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Talks on northern Iraq truce postponed
ANKARA (AFP) — A meeting between rival Iraqi Kurd factions and diplomats from Turkey, the United States and Britain which was due to have taken place Friday has been postponed for a week, officials said. Representatives from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), together with members of northern Iraq's Turcoman community, were expected to join on-going talks aimed at setting up a system for monitoring the ceasefire in northern Iraq. Sources close to the talks said the meeting in Ankara was put off because the KDP team had not received instructions from the organisation's political bureau. The six partners make up the supervisory peace monitoring group, which was set up under the terms of an Oct. 31 peace accord between the KDP and PUK.

King, Crown Prince meets Turkish air force chief
AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday met with the chief of the Turkish air force, Lieutenant-General Ahmet Chiroci, and discussed means to promote defence cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier met with the Turkish air force commander during a visit he paid to the General Headquarters. The visit of the senior Turkish defence official to Amman was ahead of a visit on Monday by Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, already postponed twice before.

Holiday declared
AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and institutions will observe a holiday on Thursday on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, an official statement issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said.

Slaves freed in Sudan by NGO
GENEVA (AFP) — Some 58 women and children slaves were freed from more than 18-months slavery at the end of October in Sudan, Christian Solidarity International (CSI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), announced here Friday. CSI said in a press release the slaves had been captured in January and February 1995 during raids conducted by Sudanese government forces in the Bahr Al Ghazal province. CSI paid almost three million Sudanese pounds (\$20,000) to an Arab trader to free them, it said. "The 50,000 Sudanese pound price for each slave is roughly equivalent of the local cost of two or three cows," the press release said.

Turkish troops kill 35 in northern Iraq
ISTANBUL (AFP) — Turkish troops killed 35 Kurdish rebels and wounded 45 others during a raid into northern Iraq Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said. The guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were hiding out in a cave that was attacked by Turkish troops, she said. Mrs. Ciller also said the Turkish forces "just barely missed Ocalan." She did not say if she was referring to PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who usually lives in Damascus, Syria or the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, or his brother Osman, who generally lives in northern Iraq. Mrs. Ciller said that six associates of Ocalan were killed during the raid including a goz, a high-ranking member of the PKK.

Saudi executed for murdering six
RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi national convicted of murdering six people was beheaded by sword on Friday in the northwestern town of Tabuk, the Saudi Interior Ministry said. Ahmad Tabar Al Mijrashi shot and killed six workmates after a dispute, and injured a seventh, said a ministry statement put out by Radio Riyadh. The execution was the 48th carried out since the beginning of the year 10 Saudi Arabia, which applies strict Islamic law. In 1995 a record 191 people were executed in the kingdom.

Jordan Times

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King pardons Shbeilat

HM, in special decree, says Shbeilat's detention weighed heavily on his mind and decision to free him was taken to honour the Shbeilat family

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday pardoned outspoken critic Leith Shbeilat after serving seven months for lese majeste charges.

The King, who drove Mr. Shbeilat in his own car from Swaga prison to Mr. Shbeilat's mother's house, said the decision was taken in honour of his deceased father, Farhan Shbeilat, his mother, and his brother Senator Gaiith Shbeilat.

It was the second time Mr. Shbeilat was pardoned by the King. In 1992, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison for sedition and was freed immediately following a general pardon that was endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament. This time however, he received a special pardon, which the King issued, using his constitutional prerogative.



Leith Shbeilat, who was freed on Friday after a pardon issued by His Majesty King Hussein, poses with his mother at her house shortly after his release (photo by Yousef Allan)

"I have made my decision in honour of his mother, and in honour of his brother Senator Gaiith Shbeilat, and in honour of his wife and children. It is in commemoration of his late father, who was like an uncle and a friend to me until he passed away," Mr. Shbeilat, president of the Engineers Association, was sentenced on March 17 to three years in prison for

bers of treachery. "God knows that the detention period of Leith was so heavy on me as it was on him and his family," the King said in his letter to the prime minister. "I thank God, am not one who holds grudges. But this time, he overdid it. He inflicted harm on the Hashemite family, beginning with Hussein Ben Ali, the martyr of Arab right in Palestine, and King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the martyr of Al Aqsa Mosque, and (myself) and (my) family."

"(It was not a harm directed at the King) personally but against what I represent in this country and the history of the people."

"He had therefore, may God forgive him, caused harm to the memory of his father, who was one of the prominent men of the country, fully trusted by King Abdullah and his grandson (King Hussein). He caused harm to his family, to all people who come from his city Tafleeh. Those people who accompanied the Arab revolutionary, Sharif Hussein, the son of the Prophet Mohammad's daughter in his Great Arab Revolt and the companions of Zeid, his son and King Abdullah and his grandson King Hussein. The past is forgiven. May God guide us to the path of righteousness, faith and goodness in word and deed," the King said.

Mr. Shbeilat, an ardent

(Continued on page 7)

Nigerian 727 crashes with 141 aboard; no survivors

LAGOS (AP) — A Nigerian airliner carrying 141 people crashed into swamps east of Lagos after losing contact with air traffic controllers, and all on board were believed dead, aviation officials said Friday.

About 24 hours after the Boeing 727 disappeared, wreckage was found in the village of Imota about 65 kilometres southeast of Lagos, said Aviation Minister Ite Udoh Umeh.

"From the information I have, it would seem the plane just plunged into the lagoon," he told reporters. Rescuers said the plane's tail was visible from the air, sticking out of the muddy crash scene.

The passengers included at least six Britons. It was not immediately known if other foreigners were on board. Six helicopters, most belonging to foreign oil companies, joined Nigerian police, aviation authorities and soldiers in the search, which had focused on the sea off Lagos and swamps around the city.

Controllers at Lagos' Murtala Mohammed airport lost contact with the plane at 5:05 p.m.

Peres: 'New Mideast' is still possible

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader and architect of the peace process, said Friday that his dream of a "new Middle East" remains alive despite the present climate in the region.

"The arrival in power of the right (in Israel) has made things much more difficult," the former prime minister said in an interview with AFP ahead of next week's regional economic conference in Cairo.

"(But) the 'new Middle East', founded on the basis of peace and regional economic development, is not dead," added Mr. Peres, who was defeated by right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel's May general elections. "The peace process has to move forward on two legs — one political and the other economic," the Labour Party leader said. "The political leg may be in a cast but even so, it is still possible to move forward."

Mr. Peres was a prime mover behind the holding of the two previous Middle East economic conferences — in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and Amman in 1995 — and has supported the creation of a common market for the Middle East.

The atmosphere for the economic conference to be held in Cairo from November 12 to 14 is markedly different from that of the previous two, however, because of the current deadlock in the peace process and Israeli-Palestinian talks.

U.S. officials reject theory that 'friendly fire' downed TWA 800

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Pentagon officials Friday denied a claim that a U.S. Navy warship fired a missile that downed TWA Flight 800 over New York on July 17.

A navy official who declined to be identified said the claim of a missile fired from a U.S. warship is "an old theory" and that investigators "looked thoroughly into that."

Pierre Salinger, a former aide to U.S. President John Kennedy, said in France Thursday that he had been given the information by someone with close links to the U.S. government. But the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in New York, which has been working

with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in investigating the crash, said it had no evidence to indicate the Paris-bound plane explosion was caused by "friendly fire."

The navy official said the USS Normandy was the closest U.S. warship to the scene of the crash, about 300 kilometres to the south. It was conducting "routine exercises" and did not fire any missiles, the official said.

FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom, who is heading the criminal investigation he said, "We have looked at this thoroughly and we have absolutely not one shred of evidence that it happened or it could have happened."

(Continued on page 7)

Sharaa thinks talks with Israel will resume

PARIS (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Friday it was likely that peace talks between his country and Israel would resume at the beginning of next year after being suspended since February. "We cannot say how and when" these talks would resume but "it is probable that the (peace process) will gain momentum early next year," he said following talks with his French counterpart Mr. Herve de Charette. Mr. Sharaa's surprise visit to Paris is in response to an invitation by Mr. de Charette, less than three weeks after French President Jacques Chirac made a highly publicized and controversial tour of the Middle East. Mr. Sharaa is to meet with Mr. Chirac on Saturday.



MAMMOTH TUSK: An archaeologist inspects a giant 3.5-metre mammoth tusk (Mammuthus Trogontheri) weighing around 150 kilograms discovered near the northern Serbian town of Kikinda in September 1996. The five-metre tall mammoth fossil, the first complete discovery of its kind in Yugoslavia, was found at a depth of around 20 metres and is believed to be at least 40,000 years old (Reuters photo)

Puerto Rico-style status for Palestinians — Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposes a limited sovereignty like in Andorra or Puerto Rico as a final status for the Palestinian territories, the newspaper Haaretz reported on Friday.

"In the framework of a final settlement, I foresee for the Palestinians a status similar to that of the residents of Puerto Rico or the principality of Andorra," he said at a meeting with ambassadors posted in Israel.

The right-wing leader reiterated his opposition to "recognition by Israel of a right to self-determination for the Palestinians because that would imply the right to create a truly independent state."

"A large majority of Israelis rule out this prospect because even those who are ready to accept a Palestinian state alongside Israel want this state to be disarmed, something which is incompatible with real independence," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu said at the meeting on Monday that he wants a level of Palestinian autonomy to allow them "to run their own affairs, while security remains in the hands of Israel."

Puerto Rico in the Caribbean is a U.S. territory. Its residents have U.S. citizenship but not the right to vote in American legislative or presidential elections.

The principality of Andorra has a special status under the joint suzerainty of France and a bishop in Spain, the two countries it straddles.

In a survey published by Tel Aviv University this week, most Jews said they were opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, by a 52-41 per cent margin.

Palestinian demands

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has given Mr. Netanyahu a list of four basic demands which need

to be fulfilled to unblock the stalled peace talks.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said he banded Mr. Arafat's letter over to Dan Shomron, the head Israeli negotiator, when members of both sides met on Wednesday in a bid to jump start talks on the Hebron redeployment.

"I gave Mr. Shomron a letter from Mr. Arafat for the Israeli prime minister which contained four fundamental demands with regard to the peace process," Mr. Erakat told AFP.

He said the letter demanded Mr. Netanyahu continue negotiations on Hebron until an accord is reached, start talks on other parts of the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace track, put an immediate stop to Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories and set a date for the start of negotiations aimed at determining the final status of those territories.

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton poised to make major cabinet changes; many bow out

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton was set to name a new chief-of-staff Friday as the cards were being reshuffled in the White House for his second term in office.

A senior administration official said the new chief deputy would be Erskine Bowles, who has been a top White House aide, replacing the departing Leon Panetta.

Clinton aides have said the president wants to put his immediate White House staff in place even before replacing the many cabinet members leaving the administration, to make the transition easier.

Labour Secretary Robert Reich, meanwhile joined the exodus of senior administration figures, saying he was unable to juggle the competing demands of the job and his family life.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher's departure was formally announced Thursday; but several other cabinet members are expected to be on their way out.

These include Defence Secretary William Perry, Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, Energy

Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Henry Cisneros and Transportation Secretary Federico Pena.

Some reports suggest Education Secretary Richard Riley may leave as Mr. Clinton wipes the slate clean for his new administration following his reelection victory Tuesday.

The president, reflecting on apparent divided voter sentiment following the reelection of a Democratic president and a Republican-led Congress, has said he may draw from Republicans and independents in his second term.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said it would require some time to name a replacement for Mr. Christopher at the State Department and that several candidates were being considered.

But Stephen Hess, a presidential expert at the Brookings Institution, said Mr. Clinton should act swiftly to name his key foreign policy aides, particularly with the president's first post-election foreign trip coming up Nov. 18-26.

"It seems sensible to move quickly on these things, especially in the national security field," Mr. Hess said. "Because of the trip to Asia, he should have the team in place before he leaves."

Mr. Christopher is to hold talks in Cairo next week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on the Middle East peace process.

The sources said Mr. Christopher would head the U.S. delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo on Tuesday. The conference runs from Nov. 12 to 14.

President Clinton accepted Mr. Christopher's resignation on Thursday, Christopher is to step down on Jan. 20 when Mr. Clinton is inaugurated for his second term.

President Clinton made the announcement at a White House event in which he paid tribute to Mr. Christopher, who served as Washington's diplomat-in-chief for four years.

"Being secretary of state is to take part in history's relay race," Mr. Christopher said.

(Continued on page 7)

Hariri wins free hand on economy but loses political grip on cabinet

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has formed a government which reflects his determination to push ahead with ambitious post-war reconstruction but failed to keep a political grip on the cabinet.

The billionaire prime minister, after nearly two weeks of wrangling with other top officials over government portfolios and whether the opposition should be represented, formed his third cabinet on Thursday night.

Mr. Hariri has stressed since his Oct. 24 re-appointment after legislative elections that he will continue the "Horizon 2000" reconstruction plan, costing some \$18 billion, for Lebanon to recover from the 1975-1990 civil war.

In the new government line-up, Mr. Hariri retained the finance portfolio which he held in the two previous cabinets and took over the posts and communication ministry, which is to be privatised.

Clinic aide Fuad Sinirra stays on as state minister for financial affairs while the premier's supporters

also retained the ministries of information, justice, transport, municipal affairs, administrative reforms and public works.

The big guns of the previous cabinet held onto their portfolios — Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, Defence Minister Mohsen Dallul, Interior Minister Michel Murr, Justice Minister Bahige Tabbara and Commerce Minister Yassin Jaber.

But Mr. Hariri failed in his bid to form a closely-knit political team, free of opposition figures and internal disputes. Several of his detractors have been appointed ministers.

President Elias Hrawi and Parliament speaker Nabih Berri refused to allow the prime minister to monopolise the political arena and managed to increase their influence in the cabinet.

The opposition within the cabinet focuses on the minister for expatriate affairs, Talal Arslan, Tourism Minister Nicolas Fattouh and Health Minister Suleiman Franjeh.

Mr. Franjeh was in Mr. Hariri's first government but dropped when the prime minister formed the

next cabinet in May 1995.

Also, the Druze leader and pro-Syrian refugees minister, Walid Jumblatt, has kept his place in the new government despite fierce criticism of Mr. Hariri's fast-moving economic policies.

Political analysts said the inclusion of rivals and potential opponents of Mr. Hariri in the cabinet and the increased influence of Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri mean the government is unlikely to have a smooth ride.

Beirut newspapers on Friday also saw trouble on the horizon.

"A government born in crisis," warned Al Safir newspaper. "A non-homogeneous government... how can it rule?" asked Al Nahar.

The new government, in keeping with a national pact drawn up in 1990, comprises 15 Muslims and 15 Christians. Eleven portfolios changed hands and seven new ministers were appointed.

The cabinet is scheduled to meet for the first time at the presidential palace on Monday.

Woman cleared of car-bomb attack on Israeli embassy

The Times of London

THE CASE against a housewife accused of planting a car bomb outside the Israeli embassy in London in a bid to destroy the Middle East peace talks on Nov. 4 when a judge described evidence as suspect.

Nadia Zekra, a mother of two who was said to have left an Audi car parked outside the building and walked off carrying a Harrods bag, wept as she begged her husband and friends outside the Old Bailey.

Mr. Justice Garland accepted a defence submission that Mrs. Zekra, 49, who had denied causing the explosion in July 1994, had no case to answer after a month of prosecution evidence. The judge said that identification evidence was "fraught with pitfalls." He said also that evidence by a police constable on duty at the embassy was "suspect with serious inconsistencies." He added: "It would be dangerous in the extreme to allow this case to go before a jury. I have no hesitation in discharging this case."

The jury will be directed today to return a not guilty verdict on the charge against Mrs. Zekra and to continue considering the case against her three co-defendants.

Outside the court, Mrs. Zekra, of West Kensington, London, said: "I was sure I would not be convicted. I just want to be with my family now and have time



Nadia Zekra

on my own. My family my sons — we all suffered deeply. The time in prison was worst of all."

The court has been told that a gang of upper-class Palestinian terrorists planted two car bombs in London. The embassy explosion on July 26 was followed by one in Finchley David Calvert-Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said the blasts were organised by the self-styled Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine and claimed that Mrs. Zekra was part of the group.

Opening the case, he said there was "a tremendous explosion" in which the windows of every house, shop and car within a radius of a few hundred yards were shattered. People inside the embassy and outside on the street were thrown to the ground.

"Astoundingly no one was dead," he said, although the Finchley bomb, outside

were grown up; she shopped at Sainsbury's on Cromwell Road, she had seen Pavarotti in Covent Garden, would never have missed Picasso at the Tate and once a week went to opera awareness classes in a friend's flat.

Then almost two years ago she became the Crown's chief suspect in the 1994 bombing of the Israeli embassy in London. Two days ago an Old Bailey judge directed a jury to acquit her, telling the Crown that no jury would sustain a case against a woman based on conflicting eyewitness accounts.

Nadia Zekra is clearly still stunned by the events of the last 20 months of her life. They include five months as a category A prisoner in Holloway jail; four days' interrogation in Charing Cross police station, where she exercised in handcuffs in a prison yard watched by police officers who nicknamed her the "black widow"; the supposed disciple of the Arab extremist Abu Nidal, seeking vengeance for her martyred son.

Now, she's been given back her identity as Nadia Zekra opera fan and housewife with a taste for Pavarotti and a lot of anger. She says came close to breaking point several times in her four months' imprisonment.

They came straight to her bedroom that January morning and she woke to the words: "We are charg-

ing you with the bombing of the Israeli embassy on July 26, 1994 and with collaborating in the bombing of Balfour House on July 27."

She sat up in bed in her nightdress and called her husband, Ahmad, aged 54, who had already been banished to the lounge with their son, Nadeem. She never got a chance to say goodbye to them.

"I suppose I was in shock for those first hours. I just thought this is a terrible mistake and all I have to do is to tell them everything they want to know."

Yesterday, 24 hours after the Old Bailey judge had thrown out the case against her, she was fielding calls from well-wishers.

"The worst moment was when I arrived in Holloway and they admitted me and made me put all my clothes in a plastic bag."

"All these people banging on the door shouting 'which embassy did you bomb?' I just cried and cried. They were nice to me there, I think they felt sorry for me because I was always crying."

Four and half months later bail was granted and fixed at £500,000. "It took about 10 days for my husband to raise the money among all our friends. Those last 10 days were the worst. I was desperate to get out and I just kept saying to myself this is all going to end as fast and as suddenly as it began."

Iran wants French airliners, satellites, maybe beef—minister

PARIS (AFP) — Iran wants to buy 10 Airbus airliners, and French communications satellites costing more than \$500 million, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi said here on Friday.

Iran was also interested in buying French beef, he said, and quoted the French foreign minister as saying that France would ignore the U.S. Arms Act, to prevent companies from investing in the Iranian hydrocarbons industry.

He also revealed that the quasi French state export-credit guarantee department, COFACE, had resumed coverage for exports to Iran from September.

It had suspended such coverage in 1993, and Mr. Vaezi said that settlement in July of a dispute over a debt of \$120 million owed by Iran to the French car manufacturer Peugeot had opened the way for export insurance.

"We plan to buy satellites costing more than \$500 million, and we are ready to buy 10 Airbus airliners," he said at the end of a two-day official visit here.

France and Iran were

negotiating "big economic projects" which raised the prospects of a "fruitful future" for economic relations between the two countries, he told journalists.

These concerned gas and oil, the purchase of aircraft, beef and communications equipment.

Iran was also negotiating with the French oil company ELF which had sent a delegation to Iran three weeks ago.

During his visit he had noted "a firm desire that economic cooperation should develop."

Mr. Vaezi, who met French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on Thursday, said that Mr. De Charette had said he wanted France to become "Iran's biggest economic trading partner."

France wanted to develop bilateral relations without taking any account of U.S. measures to penalise European companies investing in hydrocarbons industries in Iran and Libya.

This was seen as a reference to the so-called U.S. Arms Act. "On our side, also, we want to see a big increase in our trade," with France, he said.

Jordan hopes to reopen Kuwaiti embassy soon

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A special envoy sent from Jordan to Kuwait to help improve relations said in an interview on Thursday that he hoped Amman would open an embassy in Kuwait city soon.

Ibrahim Nabulsi, an envoy sent by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, handed over a letter on bilateral ties to Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Tuesday.

When asked by Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Am in an interview published on Thursday if he expected a Jordanian Embassy to be opened soon, Mr. Nabulsi said: "This is what we hope."

"Jordan's embassy in Kuwait has been closed since the Iraqi invasion in 1990."

"Jordan rejects the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and it is impossible to accept the oppression by a big neighbour on a small brother," Mr. Nabulsi told the paper.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swedish aid minister due in Mideast

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden's minister for development aid Pierre Schori is to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank on Sunday through Wednesday, a government spokesman said. In Israel, Mr. Schori is to meet with Foreign Minister David Levy, before seeing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza where an agreement on cooperation is to be signed with the Palestinian National Authority. Mr. Schori will then go to Ramallah, on the West Bank, and see Palestinian Council Speaker Ahmad Qureia, Culture and Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi and minister without portfolio Faisal Hussein, the Swedish foreign ministry said.

Libyan diplomat charged with drug-trafficking

VALETTA (AFP) — A Libyan diplomat accredited in Turkey and a Tunisian woman were charged with drug-trafficking here Thursday, Maltese police said. Ramadan Ahmed Suleiman Kheddeda, 52, and Marzuki Hashemi Beya, 38, were arrested Monday after arriving on the island on a flight from Istanbul. Ms. Beya was found with five packets of heroin, containing 200 grammes in total, in her clothing. But she said she was carrying the drug for the Libyan diplomat. The head of the Maltese drug squad, Michael Cassar, said that police had been monitoring the frequent comings and goings of visitors from Turkey, Bulgaria and Tunisia.

Turkish trial of police transferred

ANKARA (R) — The trial of police officers in connection with the killing of a Turkish journalist is to be transferred to the western town of Afyon because of security concerns, the state-run Anatolian news agency said on Friday. The trial began in the southwestern town of Aydin last month under the critical eye of Turkey's Western allies and rights workers. "In the vicinity of the court where the case was heard, there are many schools and for this reason providing security would be difficult," the criminal court in Aydin was quoted as saying in a statement by

Anatolian. Forty-eight police officers were charged in connection with the killing in January of Mezin Goktepe, who was alleged to have been battered to death by police in Istanbul. Goktepe was among scores of people rounded up at random for an identity check in Egypt sports complex after the funerals of two far-left militant prisoners.

Iran slams small international aid

DUBAI (R) — Iran has slammed low levels of international aid given to Tehran to help two million Iraqi and Afghan refugees taking shelter in the Islamic republic. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmoud Vaezi told French Ministry for Emergency Humanitarian Action Xavier Emmanuelli in Paris that the amount of aid it received did not meet the actual needs of refugees, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said on Thursday night. IRNA said France promised Mr. Vaezi it would offer more humanitarian aid before winter. Many live in cold mountain camps with little food or water. Iran is home to two million refugees, 1.4 million from Afghanistan and 600,000 from Iraq, making it the world's most important host country, according to U.N. relief agencies.

Italian sideswipes Israeli policeman

TEL AVIV (R) — An Italian diplomat trying to drive from Israel into the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip on Thursday struck and lightly wounded an Israeli border policeman with his car, Israeli security sources said. The sources said the Italian vice-consul drove up to the Beit Hanoun checkpoint between Israel and self-ruled Gaza and handed his identification card to an Israeli border policeman for a routine check. "The vice-consul got out of his car and snatched his card from the policeman's hand. He then got back in his car, started it quickly, and tried to cross the checkpoint without undergoing a border police check," one source said. "He hit a border policeman with his car and lightly wounded him. He was taken to hospital for treatment," the source added. The incident was under investigation, the source added. Italian embassy officials declined immediate comment.

Turkish interior minister resigns

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said on Friday that Interior Minister Mehmet Agar had handed in his resignation in a scandal over alleged links between the police and organised crime.

"Mehmet Agar has given in his resignation," Mr. Erbakan told reporters. Mr. Erbakan said he had accepted the resignation. Mr. Agar is at the centre of a scandal that has unravelled since a police chief, a wanted gangster and a former deputy prime minister died in the same car in a traffic accident last weekend.

A government member of parliament who runs a Kurdish tribal militia that fights separatist guerrillas in the southeast was in the car and is seriously injured in hospital.

Mr. Agar, a right-winger, is a member of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) coalition partner.

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 The Adventures of Mickey and Donald

14:30 Circus

15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Mille Villages

15:30 Fete des Bebes

16:00 Sports — Gillette

16:30 Chris Cross

17:00 News Flash

17:01 Futures

17:15 Drama — Blue Heelers

18:00 Series — Jack

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 Magazine — Ziva

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder

20:00 Doc. — Gardens of the World

20:30 Prism

21:10 Lois and Clarke

22:00 News in English

22:25 The Maharajah's Daughter

23:15 Feature Film — "Soylent Green"

PRAYER TIMES

04:35 Fajr

05:54 (Sunrise) Duha

11:19 Dhuhr

14:19 Asr

16:45 Maghreb

18:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweetfield, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661656

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

TERRASANTA Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 827125

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Khalil Jbali 740740

Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Youssef Khatib 896301

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoudh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Stamessani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmed Qum 281484

Al Quds pharmacy 636381

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Deserts 08/23

Jordan Valley 15/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 21, Aqaba 27 Humidity

readings: Amman 33 per cent.

Aqaba 36 per cent.

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111,

637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

AKLEH Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musaher Hospital 672279

The Islamic Abdali 666126/37

Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560

Don Sima Hospital 09/986732

Queen meets with World Bank delegation to discuss tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat and President of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Dr. Fayed Khasawneh Thursday met with a World Bank delegation at Al Ma'wa Palace to discuss the ministry's comprehensive investment-tourism programme, a Royal Court statement said.

The programme is in the final appraisal stage and includes strengthening the coordinating role of the Ministry of Tourism between the different ministries and the private sector, expanding the infrastructure in Petra, Jerash, Ajlun and Kerak as well as developing Wadi Rum as a tourist venue, under the "Special Status Category."

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of intersectoral cooperation and partnership between the government, the national coalition of non-governmental environmental and cultural heritage organisations as well as local communities especially during the ongoing discussions to develop and finalise the programme.

Head of the World Bank mission Tufan Kolan, said the programme "aims at ensuring an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development of the tourism sector in Jordan," the statement said.

She added that its three main objectives were "sustainability, integrating tourism development with local communities ... and developing tourism attractions around Jordan."

The policy of the World Bank, which has a key role in Jordan's economic planning and implementation in terms of extending material and technical assistance, is to help countries maintain, enhance and restore their cultural heritage whose conservation is an essential part of the sustainable development process.

Tufan Kolan, Nicole Glineur, Mohammad Feghoul and Peter Hammett attended the meeting with the Queen.

Also Thursday, the Queen met with the Jordanian graduates of the "Seeds of Peace" Programme at Al Ma'wa Palace, a Royal Court statement said.

"Seeds of Peace" is a two-week summer camp programme in the United States for 12-14 year-old children from countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

The programme's main goal is to introduce Middle Eastern children to each other in the hope that their camping experience would forge lasting bonds of friendship and understanding between them.

Over the past two years, 30 Jordanian students from the Jubilee, Model, Ahliyyah, Amman National, Amman Academy and Baccalaureate schools participated in the "Seeds of Peace" camp.

"Seeds of Peace" Executive Director Barbara Gostchalk attended the meeting.

Later the Queen, who is Patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts (RSFA), opened an international art exhibition from Holland entitled "Hond & Hamer: The effect of culture exchange on art," organised by RSFA and the Dutch "Arctic Foundation," at the Jordan National Gallery in Jebel Weibdeh.

"Hond & Hamer" is Dutch for "Dog and Hammer," the former referring to a school of philosophy affiliated to the Greek "Cynics," while the latter

relates to the philosophy of Nietzsche.

According to the exhibition's curator and Arctic Foundation founder Mr. Bert Hermens, the Hond & Hamer exhibition originated from a one-month workshop on print-making techniques which took place in 1993, when 24 artists from Holland, Greece, Lebanon, Curacao (a Caribbean island under Dutch rule), Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Vietnam, Russia, Chile and Spain lived, interacted and worked together.

Mr. Hermens avowed fascination in seeing how artists from different cultural backgrounds approached print-making and the effect they had on each other.

The result of this workshop is an exhibition of multi-media works of art which range from an artificial shelter comprised of roof tops entitled "Home is where the heart is" to a "Mind expanding" print, comprising a superimposition of profiles on a text entitled "Intellect, the exercise of the mind, formation of ideas."

The co-curator of the exhibition, Iraqi artist, Munkith Said persuaded the Arctic Foundation to show the exhibition in the Islamic World beginning with Jordan, where it will run until November 30 before moving to the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

The Arctic Foundation was established a year ago by a group of artists from the Netherlands "to promote new forms of art that originate from inter-cultural interaction."

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American officials respond to growing concern about MENA conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American officials Thursday attempted to ease doubts about prospects for a fruitful Middle East and North Africa economic conference, currently overshadowed by political uncertainties and plagued by disappointing slow economic progress following last year's MENA conference in Amman.

Head of the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Stuart Eizenstat told an audience in Amman via satellite on the Worldnet Dialogue, that the United States would be represented by its largest delegation of businessmen yet, in the upcoming conference.

The conference is scheduled for Nov. 13-15 in Cairo.

According to Mr. Eizenstat, the Department of Commerce has "spent months" recruiting the 250 U.S. businessmen (representing 120 American companies) designated to attend this year's conference.

"This is 100 more than we had at the Amman conference last year," he said. "So there is definitely enthusiasm."

Mr. Eizenstat was joined by Under-Secretary at the Department of Commerce Joan Spero who participated in the session, fielding questions from those slated to participate in the upcoming conference as well as community business leaders.

Enthusiasm for the conference began to wane after the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has demonstrated an unwillingness to implement the peace process.

Jordanian businessmen have said that they will shun deals with Israelis if Israel fails to make progress in peace talks with the Palestinians. Palestinian industrialists last week said that they intend to boycott the conference in protest of the Israeli closure of Palestinian territories which has restricted their business and also last week the Union of Chambers of Commerce in Egypt said that it would not participate

"due to the presence of a large Israeli delegation." Neither are Syria and Lebanon participating, and Iraq, Jordan's largest trading partner prior to UN-imposed economic sanctions, was not invited.

However, Mr. Eizenstat said, "we do need to separate between political and economic progress."

"The peace process will always have ups and downs but business has to continue."

His argument did not appear to impress Jordanian participants in the satellite conference who asserted that since the signing of trade deals with both Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Israeli "security concerns" and other non-tariff barriers have inhibited successful economic ventures.

Mr. Eizenstat, who paid a visit to the region in August, said that following his visit, he had a sense of the problems and their lack of resolution. "When I came back [to the US] I briefed the State Department that the peace process needs stronger economic underpinnings."

He added that the U.S. was pressing the Israeli government "consistent to its security needs." However, he said, "we have not made as much progress as we would have liked."

According to Mr. Eizenstat, the U.S. wants to provide \$150-200 million of scanning equipment to Israel to be used at the borders between the territories and Israel in support of a free flow of goods.

Both officials also offered continuing support for UN-imposed economic sanctions against Iraq adding that the U.S. has been sensitive to their impact on the Jordanian economy and that the U.S. has gone to considerable lengths to help Jordan cope.

"We've helped Jordan re-open rich markets in the Gulf," said Ms. Spero. "We've helped open relations with Israel and recently we've tried to help in terms of foreign assistance with a \$200 million lending programme via EXIM Bank."

Ms. Spero countered criticism that U.S. efforts to bolster the Palestinian economy were not as substantial as those offered in 1979 when Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty. The two countries today receive more than \$5 billion in direct assistance from the U.S.

"We are committed to promoting prosperity," said Ms. Spero. "We have maintained our assistance to Egypt and Israel, but we have increased our assistance to Jordan, and we have forgiven \$1 billion in debt."

The aid Jordan receives from the U.S., she said, is on a par with that received in Egypt in per capita terms.

"We are trying to get our own economic house in order," said Ms. Spero. "In reality we can no longer depend on a growing assistance budget."

"The Middle East cannot rely on external assistance — the route to growth is through economic reform, deregulation, privatisation and the development of capital markets."

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British embassy clerk faces charges of fraud

LONDON (J.T.) — A British embassy clerk in Amman stole hundreds of thousands of pounds by claiming the pensions of dead British military and diplomatic staff, said an official report Friday, according to Agence France Presse (AFP).

The "scandal" uncovered when records showed a loss of £330,000, was carried out by an accountant, formerly employed at the Amman embassy, over more than 20 years, according to the National Audit Office (NAO) report, AFP said.

The alleged swindler was named by British newspapers on Friday as 55-year-old Elias Zureik, a Jordanian, according to AFP.

An embassy official in Amman confirmed the report and told the Jordan Times Friday that the British authorities initially sought to prevent the incident from being publicised.

Mr. Zureik allegedly siphoned off the pensions between 1968 and 1989, and continued to do so even after being asked to resign from his post at the embassy for forging a signature in 1988, AFP quoted the NAO report as saying.

In three of the ten confirmed cases, the pensioners had been born in 1897, 1900 and 1903 respectively, AFP said.

It said that because Britain's overseas pensions department deals with pensions in alphabetical groups by name rather than by country, the coincidence of a relatively large number of very old pensioners in one location was not immediately noticeable.

According to AFP, Mr. Zureik now faces criminal charges in Jordan for fraud and embezzlement of the pensions of the dead Britons, who had been based in the Middle East.

He was released on bail in February this year but, because there is no appropriate treaty with Jordan, bringing him to trial in Britain was not considered practical by the Foreign Office, which is suing him through the civil courts, AFP said.

What's Going On

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

A service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nassrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.

• "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Nov. 10.

• Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.

• Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.

• Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times offer sincere condolences to their friend and colleague

Jalal Al Azzeh

over the death of his mother

Husn Mohammad Othman Al Azzeh

May she rest in peace

Kingdom prepares for visit of Indonesian leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Indonesia Luay Khashman Friday announced that Jordan and Indonesia will sign three agreements during Indonesian President Suharto's visit to Jordan, due to begin Monday.

During the four-day state visit, President Suharto will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein to review regional and international issues of common concern.

The ambassador confirmed that ministers will sign three agreements: the first regarding investment guarantees, the second to prevent dual taxation and the third regarding maritime transportation between the countries.

Jordan and Indonesia maintain strong relations, he said, adding that President Suharto's visit is bound to further bolster economic and trade ties and cover issues, particularly those covering the Non-Aligned Movement of which the two countries are active members.

Mr. Khashman explained that Amman and Jakarta are linked by a direct air transport agreement covering both countries' national airlines and making two weekly trips.

He said that the Jordanian-Indonesian joint economic and trade committee has been holding regular meetings to promote bilateral economic and trade links.

Elucidating upon the trade theme, the ambassador said that Jordan's exports of phosphate, potash and fertilisers have been on the increase since 1994 with Jordan exporting \$38.4 million worth of these products last year and importing a total of \$27.2 million worth of Indonesian timber, vegetable oil, textiles and clothing.

Earlier this week, Jordan and Indonesia initiated an agreement on maritime transport cooperation and announced that the agreement will be formally signed during President Suharto's visit.

The agreement provides for exchange of information and technical expertise as well as the intensification of contacts between transport-related companies and institutions in the two countries. It also specifies for each

country's provision of arrangements for docking vessels, preferential treatment and facilitating procedures at their respective harbours.

Mr. Khashman also said that Jordan and Indonesia signed an agreement in 1989 providing for student and university teacher exchanges as well as joint cultural activities.

More than 60 Indonesian students are currently enrolled at Jordanian universities studying Arabic and Islamic law, he said.

In 1988, the two countries signed a protocol for organising cooperation in youth, sports and in the information field which, the ambassador said, is paving the way for the two sides to prepare an agreement between the national news agencies.

According to Mr. Khashman, an Indonesian delegation will visit Jordan before the end of 1996 to formally conclude the agreement regarding information and other media exchanges.



HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan opens new offices in the International Baccalaureate Organisation in Cardiff, Wales (photo by Boghos)

Princess Sarvath opens curriculum office at International Baccalaureate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, on a recent trip to the U.K., opened the new Curriculum and Assessment offices of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) in Cardiff, Wales.

Princess Sarvath dedicated the building to Alec Peterson, the IBO's first Director General and "the moving force behind the establishment of both the organisation and the United World Colleges movement," a Royal Court statement said.

In her capacity as a member of the Council of Foundation of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Princess Sarvath had inaugurated the previous IB Examinations Office in Cardiff in 1990.

She was also a member of the International Board of the United World Colleges (UWC) and established the Jordanian UWC National Selection Committee, which she chaired for 14 years.

The new IBO building, now officially known as

"Peterson House," was dedicated by the Princess in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayress of Cardiff as well as the IBO's Executive Committee, Heads of Schools Committee and staff.

In her address, Princess Sarvath stressed the need for the IBO to remain "relevant to the needs of an increasingly more exigent world, whilst holding true to the philosophy ... behind the programme's inception," and for its programmes to "continue to be at the forefront of pedagogical progress" while protecting the "worth and integrity of the IB diploma and certificates."

She also emphasised the importance of strengthening the international perspective and dimension of the IB, with specific reference to courses such as the "History and Culture of the Islamic World" which was first piloted at the Amman Baccalaureate School and another four schools around the world.

The Princess suggested that "the IB has a wealth of resources that it can tap in its quest to become truly international, in spirit as well as in name. Being pragmatic in responding to the dictates of change in our world does not mean that we have to sacrifice... principles. If anything, the curriculum would be all the richer, and even truer to its beginnings if it were to diversify further."

During her visit to the U.K., Princess Sarvath also inaugurated the new Performing Arts Department at Channing School in Highgate, London and addressed the annual meeting of the General Assembly of Channing Association.

Channing is one of the oldest girls' schools in the U.K. Established in 1885, the school continues to be at the forefront of girls' education and boasts a list of distinguished "old girls" who have made their mark in public life, including Princess Sarvath.

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A truck lies half-submerged in floodwaters near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh state after a cyclone lashed India's southern coast November 8. The powerful cyclone may have killed up to 1,000 according to the state's chief minister. With winds up to 180 kilometres per hour and tidal waves reaching five kilometres inland, destroying 400,000 homes (Reuters photo)

India cyclone may have killed 1,000 — minister

HYDERABAD, India (R) — A cyclone that swept through low-lying coastal areas of south-east India may have killed more than 1,000 people, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said.

Police in the main town of Hyderabad Friday put the death toll at at least 510 and officials said the cyclone destroyed houses, livestock and crops. Troops were mobilised to help relief work.

Tidal waves swept up to five kilometres inland when the cyclone struck late Wednesday, raging for five hours before it moved inland and lost power.

At its height the cyclone gusted 180 kph. State government spokesman Nageswara Rao put the number of homes destroyed or damaged at 400,000 in the deluge and said several thousand people were injured.

Around 3.5 million people live in the fertile Konaseema region around the Godavari River delta south of the port of Kakinada which bore the full brunt of the storm. The area is the rice bowl of

Andhra Pradesh. Around two million people had been affected by the disaster, Mr. Rao said. He said the ministry had not assessed an exact death toll "because of the inaccessibility of places."

"The rice bowl of the state looks like a burial ground," the chief minister said after overflying the flooded areas by helicopter Thursday.

Most people were killed by flooding, house collapse or electrocution as gale force winds and heavy rains wrecked their mud and thatch homes, officials said.

Around 40 people drowned when a ferry capsized in the Godavari River. Many people were crushed by huge coconut trees thrown across their homes and cars by the violent winds.

Mr. Naidu put a provisional estimate on losses in the east Godavari district, hit hardest by the cyclone, at 20 billion rupees (\$560 million).

Many towns and villages in the east Godavari are still under two or three metres of water, district officials said.

"It will take at least one more day before the water

begins to drain," one official told Reuters.

H.S. Brahma, the official coordinating relief in Hyderabad, 200 miles (320 km) to the west of Kakinada, said more than 100,000 people were being sheltered in 175 relief camps set up in east and west Godavari districts.

After the initial downpour rainfall has decreased sharply.

"The fury is over. The storm crossed Andhra Pradesh on Nov. 6th night and thereafter weakened," S.C. Goyal, a director at India's Meteorological Department said.

Chief Minister Naidu appealed to Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda to provide maximum assistance for the relief and rescue operation.

Communications and transport routes to the worst affected areas were severely disrupted. Torrents of water have swept away bridges while winds threw trees across highways and blew down telephone lines.

Chief Minister Naidu said that some areas would be without electricity and water

for a minimum of 15 days.

Reddy Subramaniam, a tax collector in Rajahmundry, east Godavari, said thousands of livestock had been lost, and 250,000 hectares (625,000 acres) of rice paddy inundated.

Some areas of Kakinada were submerged after a tidal wave hit the town. "The water receded after an hour but stayed on in the low-lying areas," Mr. Subramaniam said.

Drinking water was being brought to coastal villages from towns 220 kilometres away, Mr. Subramaniam said, after the sea water swamped local sources of drinking water.

Andhra Pradesh's flat coastline renders it vulnerable to tropical storms tearing in off the bay of Bengal. In 1977 over 10,000 people were killed by a cyclone that drove a tidal wave up to 12 kilometres inland.

More recently a cyclone killed 120 people in June this year, and 967 people died in 1990.

Milosevic asks U.N. to stay one more year in eastern Slavonia

BELGRADE (AFP) — Yugoslavia has officially requested that the mandate of the U.N. force in the last Serb-held part of Croatia be extended by a year, a demand backed up by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Friday.

Mr. Milosevic met Jacques Klein, the head of the U.N. Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES), in Belgrade to discuss the mandate of the 5,000-strong force which is due to expire in January.

"The president has a view that he feels it (the extension of the mandate) should be a full year," Mr. Klein said afterwards.

"But that's not a decision I will make. That will be decided by the Security Council in consultation with the contact group which oversees what we are doing," he said.

The U.N. force was deployed in eastern Slavonia under an agreement between Croatia and the rebel Serbs last year. Its mandate was for an initial period of one year which could be renewed for a further year if either side requested it.

Since the area is due to revert to Croatian control

once the U.N. leaves, Croatia is keen to see the force go as soon as possible, he has only agreed to a six month extension, although it has said it would allow an international monitoring presence after that.

However, the local Serbs have asked for the force to stay another year, and have now been backed up by their fellow Serbs in Belgrade.

Tanjung news agency said Friday that Yugoslav envoy to the U.N., Vladislav Jovanovic, had sent a letter to the Security Council asking for the mandate to be extended by a year.

"Yugoslavia... resolutely supports the extension of the mandate of UNTAES until January 15, 1998," it quoted the letter as saying. The letter said that a shorter mandate could threaten regional stability and raised the prospect of a mass exodus of tens of thousands of Serbs. It added that failing to renew the mandate by a year could be "a serious step back in the overall Dayton peace process."

Tanjung reported.

In Zagreb Friday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zeljko Trkijec said that Zagreb would not comment on Yugoslavia's request but

would wait for the Security Council to make its decision. Mr. Klein said after the talks with Mr. Milosevic that this decision could be expected "in the next week or two."

A report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was recently submitted to the Security Council on the issue.

Douglas Coffman, a U.N. spokesman in Vukovar, said that Dr. Ghali had recommended that the mandate be extended for six months to July 15, 1997.

"He said the council may also wish to give consideration to make appropriate arrangements for a further six-month presence but that would be a follow-on mission... not unties as it is today," Mr. Coffman said.

Mr. Klein said Friday that while there were "differences in terms of the length" of the mandate "I think everyone is looking at a year."

"It just depends how you have it, whether it's a UNTAES mandate or some other U.N. mandate," he said.

The Serb-held part of eastern Slavonia, which borders Serbia, covers 4.4 per cent of Croatia's territory.

East Timor calm after day of ethnic violence

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — East Timor's capital was calm Friday after a day of rioting that exposed the simmering tensions between the region's Christian majority and Muslim settlers from the Indonesian heartland.

The trouble in Dili started during a quarrel when a 19-year-old East Timorese was hacked with a knife by his friend, a Muslim migrant from the South Sulawesi province.

On Friday, the situation was normal, Lt. Col. Beno Kilapon, a local police official, said. Offices, schools and shops were open and streets were bustling with traffic, he told the Associated Press by phone.

During four hours of rioting, East Timorese youths set fire to kiosks owned by South Sulawesi migrants—two buses and several cars were damaged in stone throwing.

and one person was injured.

Col. Kilapon said police are questioning 10, a 19-year-old man who allegedly hacked the East Timorese, Ino Cencio Ximenes.

A local reporter who interviewed Mr. Ximenes at his hospital bed said the wounded man received stitches on the hand and head.

Mr. Ximenes said the quarrel was the result of a misunderstanding over a book of Islam he had borrowed from him.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976, a year after invading it in the midst of a civil war surrounding the withdrawal of the region's former colonial ruler, Portugal. Since then, its troops have controlled the territory.

The government also has moved thousands of Muslims from other parts of Indonesia in what it says is an attempt to integrate the area with the rest

of the country.

The resentment against the migrants often fuels the people's long standing demand for independence, which gains voice with allegations of human rights abuses by Indonesian troops.

Indonesia has refused to consider independence or even autonomy, but the East Timorese demands received a boost when the region's Roman Catholic Bishop, Carlos Belo, and exiled resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta were named joint recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

Troops are already on alert to prevent any trouble Tuesday, the fifth anniversary of the 1991 army massacre of pro-independence demonstrators at a cemetery in Dili. The government says 50 people were killed but human rights groups put the toll at 200.

Supermodel Schiffer almost sucked from plane

LONDON (R) — German Supermodel Claudia Schiffer said she was almost sucked to her death from a private plane when a door suddenly burst open in mid-air over the Caribbean.

"I sensed my life was hanging by a thread," the 26-year-old model, who was searching over the lesser Antilles for calendar photo-shoot locations, told The Sun Tabloid. "We had just taken off when the door next to me flew open. I was terrified of being sucked out."

She said she clung to the door handle with all my strength, she said. "With one hand I took off my belt and wound it round the handle. I managed to pull the door closed and tie it up. Things like this remind you you're mortal."

Mr. Klein said Friday that while there were "differences in terms of the length" of the mandate "I think everyone is looking at a year."

"Yugoslavia... resolutely supports the extension of the mandate of UNTAES until January 15, 1998," it quoted the letter as saying. The letter said that a shorter mandate could threaten regional stability and raised the prospect of a mass exodus of tens of thousands of Serbs. It added that failing to renew the mandate by a year could be "a serious step back in the overall Dayton peace process."

Tanjung reported.

In Zagreb Friday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zeljko Trkijec said that Zagreb would not comment on Yugoslavia's request but

would wait for the Security Council to make its decision. Mr. Klein said after the talks with Mr. Milosevic that this decision could be expected "in the next week or two."

A report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was recently submitted to the Security Council on the issue.

Douglas Coffman, a U.N. spokesman in Vukovar, said that Dr. Ghali had recommended that the mandate be extended for six months to July 15, 1997.

"He said the council may also wish to give consideration to make appropriate arrangements for a further six-month presence but that would be a follow-on mission... not unties as it is today," Mr. Coffman said.

Mr. Klein said Friday that while there were "differences in terms of the length" of the mandate "I think everyone is looking at a year."

"It just depends how you have it, whether it's a UNTAES mandate or some other U.N. mandate," he said.

The Serb-held part of eastern Slavonia, which borders Serbia, covers 4.4 per cent of Croatia's territory.

The trouble in Dili started during a quarrel when a 19-year-old East Timorese was hacked with a knife by his friend, a Muslim migrant from the South Sulawesi province.

On Friday, the situation was normal, Lt. Col. Beno Kilapon, a local police official, said. Offices, schools and shops were open and streets were bustling with traffic, he told the Associated Press by phone.

During four hours of rioting, East Timorese youths set fire to kiosks owned by South Sulawesi migrants—two buses and several cars were damaged in stone throwing.

Troops are already on alert to prevent any trouble Tuesday, the fifth anniversary of the 1991 army massacre of pro-independence demonstrators at a cemetery in Dili. The government says 50 people were killed but human rights groups put the toll at 200.

The government also has moved thousands of Muslims from other parts of Indonesia in what it says is an attempt to integrate the area with the rest

of the country.

The resentment against the migrants often fuels the people's long standing demand for independence, which gains voice with allegations of human rights abuses by Indonesian troops.

Indonesia has refused to consider independence or even autonomy, but the East Timorese demands received a boost when the region's Roman Catholic Bishop, Carlos Belo, and exiled resistance leader Jose Ramos Horta were named joint recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

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Mars space probe heads for the red planet

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Earth's invasion of Mars began Thursday as the first of three robot missions to the red planet planned this year

headed into space. NASA's Mars global surveyor began its 435-million-mile (698-million km), 10-month interplanetary trek to Mars 50 seconds after noon EST (1700 GMT).

"We have lift-off of NASA's Mars global surveyor, as America begins its journey back to the red planet," said NASA launch commentator Bruce Buckingham as the probe

climbed from its launch pad in a burst of fire and smoke. The huge Delta 2 rocket, built by McDonnell Douglas Corp., soared aloft one day later than planned due to bad weather. NASA had until Nov. 25 to get the probe off the launch pad or face a two-year delay until the planets were properly aligned.

Less than an hour after liftoff, launch controllers and mission scientists burst into cheers and applause as surveyor separated from the rocket's third stage halfway around the world off the west coast of Australia.

"It's absolute elation," said Wesley Huntress, NASA head of space science. "The spacecraft is apparently on its way, on a good trajectory. It couldn't have gone better."

The one-tonne spacecraft was designed and built in record time to replace NASA's \$1 billion Mars observer probe, which spun out of control just days

before it was due to enter orbit around the red planet in 1993. Surveyor has identical copies of five of the seven scientific instruments on its ill-fated predecessor, but at \$215 million is much cheaper.

The probe is due to slip into an egg-shaped orbit around Mars on Sept. 12, 1997. It will then lower and round off its orbit by dipping into the thin Martian atmosphere and using its wing-like solar panels as air brakes.

From an altitude of 230 miles (367 km) its telephoto camera will see objects on the surface as small as a compact car. By the end of one Martian year, 687 earth days, 99 per cent of the planet will have been mapped by surveyor's electronic eye.

Other instruments will determine the composition of the Martian surface and attempt to detect traces of water, an essential ingredient for life.

"We're looking forward to a fabulous mission to Mars, one in which we will rewrite the textbooks about Mars," said Glenn Cunningham, the mission director.

The probe does not carry any instruments that could directly detect evidence of life but it may scout out sites for a future robotic mission to recover samples of rock.

Surveyor is the first of three spacecraft, two U.S. and one Russian, destined for the red planet this year. In addition, NASA plans to send pairs of spacecraft to the planet every 26 months through the year 2005.

Conservative bloc set to win Lithuanian parliamentary polls

VILNIUS (AFP) — Right-wing nationalists are poised to consolidate their grip on the new Lithuanian parliament in elections Sunday, after the first round of voting last month gave them a clear lead.

Of the 141 seats in the parliament, 70 were allocated by the proportional list system on Oct. 20, and 69 will be decided by a second round of majority constituency voting Sunday.

In the first round last month, only two candidates were elected in the seats determined by majority constituency voting —

Vytautas Landsbergis, the founding father of modern Lithuania's independence, and Gediminas Vagnorius, who is deputy leader of Mr. Landsbergis' Fatherland Union.

Thirty-two of the 70 seats allotted by the proportional list system went to the Fatherland Union and 11 seats to their Christian Democrat allies in the first round.

More than a dozen of the remaining 69 seats still to be decided will be contested by rival candidates from the Conservative Bloc, and the communists and candidates

from minor parties will be marginalised.

The Conservative Bloc is therefore certain to have a majority in the new parliament and will form a new coalition government, in a dramatic reversal of their fortunes in elections four years ago.

"In 1992, we were the first country in Eastern Europe to see the Communists return to power, but now we are the first to oust them," said Saulius Chaitanis, one of the leaders of the Fatherland Union, after the first round.

But Mr. Landsbergis' sup-

porters will have to work together with President Algirdas Brazauskas, former secretary of the Soviet-era Lithuanian Communist Party, whose mandate runs until February 1998.

The choice of prime minister will be the first test of the new power-sharing arrangement.

On Nov. 3, Mr. Landsbergis said his party would call for the appointment of Mr. Vagnorius to the post. He served as prime minister in 1991-1992.

"We hope that the president will not create obstacles to the nomination of the

prime minister, but knowing his character, he could well try," Mr. Chaitanis said.

After gaining power four years ago, the former communist Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party (LDDP) saw its popularity decline dramatically, and the party was widely criticised for the slowness with which economic reforms were introduced.

Mr. Landsbergis, 64, a former parliamentary speaker and head of state, is likely to accelerate the pace of economic reforms.

Cuba approves opening of CNN bureau in Havana

HAVANA (R) — The Cuban government said on Thursday it has approved a request by U.S. television news company Cable News Network (CNN) to open a bureau in Havana.

The decision means CNN will become the first U.S. news organisation in decades to be allowed to have a correspondent in the Cuban capital.

"Approval has been given for the establishing of a CNN correspondent in Havana and at this moment the processes for the execution of this decision are being analysed," Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Mariamela Ferriol said in a statement.

But a spokesman for CNN in Atlanta said the time Warner Inc. TWX.N News subsidiary would wait for permission from the U.S. government before setting up operations on the communis-

run island due to the ongoing U.S. economic embargo.

CNN spokesman Steve Haworth said CNN had informally sought Cuban government approval more than a year ago, and applied to the U.S. Treasury Department for permission last March.

The 24-hour cable news channel was privately notified of the Cuban decision in August and has since sought to expedite matters with the U.S. Treasury and State departments.

"With U.S. sanctions against Cuba, we still await U.S. government approval," said Mr. Haworth. "We choose to be optimistic. But we have not had any indication yet from the U.S. government as to when they may or may not approve the request."

Ms. Ferriol said that the move was not a blanket authorisation for any U.S.

news organisation to open offices. Several U.S. news organisations have pending requests to be able to open bureaux in the Cuban capital.

"Other requests remain under study," she said. She gave no indication of whether these requests would be approved soon.

Ms. Ferriol added that the request from CNN had been granted in the light of "cordial and respectful relations" between the Cuban authorities and CNN.

CNN President Ted Turner has met President Fidel Castro on several occasions in recent years. The network has been active in Cuba in the last several years, with frequent coverage by a correspondent without officially having a bureau in Havana.

U.S. news organisations such as UPI, AP and the New York Times were closed down in Cuba in the 1960s

after the two countries broke off diplomatic relations and the United States enforced an embargo on the island. Cuban authorities, however, permit some journalists from U.S. news organisations to visit the island.

President Bill Clinton announced in October 1995 that Washington sought closer people-to-people contact with Cuba despite the longstanding U.S. economic embargo against the island. He said moves to achieve this would include allowing U.S. news organisations to set up bureaux in Cuba.

But this also depended on Cuba giving its authorisation. A string of U.S. news media representatives visited Havana after October 1995 to assess prospects for opening up offices.

Despite the Cuban announcement, it was not clear whether there would be

obstacles to CNN opening a bureau under new legislation tightening the embargo approved by Mr. Clinton last March, the Helms-Burton Law.

The law allows the president to authorise the exchange of news bureaux with Cuba as long as it is fully reciprocal, and if the Cuban government agrees not to interfere with the establishment of bureaux from any U.S.-based news groups.

Cuba is unlikely to grant all U.S. news organisations the right to set up bureaux, especially U.S.-government funded media like Radio and Television Marti, which are viewed in Havana as completely hostile to the Castro government.

Officials at the U.S. interests section in Havana were not immediately available for comment on the Cuban decision.

Homeless beggar chosen as Calvin Klein model

LONDON (R) — A homeless beggar who deserted from the British army is to join supermodel Kate Moss on the catwalk after being spotted by designer Calvin Klein.

"I'm just happy to have got off the streets and got my life together," Shaun Yates was quoted as saying by The Sun Tabloid Friday after his rags-to-riches story came true. Mr. Yates, 25, who had been in prison for deserting from the army, was living on the streets of London when his picture appeared in a book about the homeless. Mr. Klein saw the picture and launched a nationwide search for Mr. Yates. "I'd never really heard of Calvin Klein before and certainly never wore his after shave or boxer shorts," said Mr. Yates as he embarked on his new career.

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Renewed fighting endangers starving refugees in Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Renewed fighting has broken out in eastern Zaire, where rebels declared a ceasefire this week, worsening the risks for hundreds of thousands of refugees already facing starvation and disease.

Witnesses said they heard artillery fire on Thursday evening west of rebel-held Goma, a hub town on the northern shore of Lake Kivu for camps which housed more than 700,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees, many of whom have fled.

The firing was in a region 20 kilometres from Goma, where returning residents who had left the town as rebels battled Zairean troops came under fire on Wednesday. At least 30 people were injured.

The rebels say Rwandan extremist Hutu militiamen, known as Interahamwe, and soldiers of the Rwandan former army, routed by a Tutsi front in 1994, remain in the region with Zairean government troops.

The gunfire died down later Thursday. Armed Rwandans have been living among more than a million Hutu refugees who have been without food and medicines for more than a week after expatriate aid workers could not reach them and then evacuated

Goma. On Monday, the coordinator of the rebel alliance dominated by Tutsis who settled in Zaire from Rwanda, Laurent-Desire Kabila, announced a unilateral ceasefire for aid workers to help the refugees and enable Hutus who wanted to return to Rwanda to do so.

However, no relief has got to the refugees, who were said by some witnesses to be dying in their hundreds at Lake Kivu after being prevented from fleeing further into Zaire by hunger and difficult volcanic terrain.

Diplomatic efforts were in hand to set up an international force to protect aid staff and open humanitarian corridors in eastern Zaire for aid and refugee movement.

An Italian diplomat in the region said Friday that he was negotiating with the Zairean rebels and indicated that the United Nations was also doing so to get humanitarian aid to the refugees.

"It's not just we who are negotiating, the United Nations also needs to establish contacts," said the Italian ambassador to Rwanda, Marcello Rigoverti, who is also accredited to Burundi and Uganda.

Mr. Rigoverti, asked about the arrival in Kigali

of a cargo plane with Italian supplies for the refugees, said negotiations were under way not only with the rebels but with Zairean and Rwandan authorities.

U.N. special mediator Raymond Chretien arrived in Kigali on Friday to discuss the "very, very urgent question of the refugees" with Rwandan authorities, whom Zaire accuses of backing the Tutsi rebels.

Some 220,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi and displaced Zaireans are still in the region of Bukavu, south of Lake Kivu, which has also been seized by the rebels like Uvira further south, witnesses said Friday.

The rebels are trying to set up an administration in the three towns, appointing "political commissars" to explain their purpose, which includes the overthrow of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The uprising, in which Tutsis have been joined by other ethnic groups, has led to student protests in the capital Kinshasa and calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo, who is accused of failing to give troops the resources to crush it.

In Bordeaux, French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister John Major

agreed Friday to "coordinate their efforts closely" in a bid to ease the crisis, a joint statement said.

It said the priority was providing humanitarian relief, under the umbrellas of international organisations and within the framework of the U.N. Security Council and the European Union.

Mr. Chirac hoped to press Mr. Major to back a proposal for a 5,000-strong military intervention force in the region.

Mr. Major said there could be "possibly" be a British military presence but called for talks with the Organisation of African Unity. "Clearly it would be desirable if there was a large contingent of African troops," he said.

France on Thursday presented a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council to seek intervention over a two-month period, combining proposals by Paris and Bonn. Troops would be allowed to use force in self-defence.

However, several Security Council members expressed reservations. Some, including the United States and Britain, fear that such intervention could end up being permanent and emphasise the repatriation of refugees instead.

In Ottawa, the Canadian foreign ministry issued a statement urging the U.N.

to "deploy a neutral force to ensure the establishment of safe humanitarian corridors" in eastern Zaire.

"Canada is prepared to consider how these corridors could be protected." In Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) more than 80,000 children under the age of three could die in eastern Zaire in the next three weeks unless humanitarian aid corridors are opened to starving refugees.

"People are already starting to die and we estimate that by the end of the month over 80,000 children under three will die," Catherine Bertini, WFP executive director told Reuters in an interview.

Ms. Bertini also said there was an "absolute, immediate need for humanitarian corridors to be opened and for us to be able to move food through."

"Military intervention is one solution but the local governments could also agree to allow this to happen and those political agreements are not yet in place," she said.

Rwanda has said it is opposed to French participation in a U.N. humanitarian force to open aid corridors for over a million Rwandan and Burundian refugees trapped in fighting in eastern Zaire.



A Zairean student pays his last respects to a student during a funeral ceremony as unrest in the capital continues. Students carrying coffins of two dead colleagues flooded the parliament building demanding the fall of part-Tutsi Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo (Reuters photo)

Japan's government has rocky start

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new government got off to a rocky start Friday with complaints it was "too old-fashioned" and "too much like the old guard."

In a separate potential disruption, United States Ambassador Walter Mondale announced his retirement after guiding ties with Japan for three years.

Opposition politicians and some editorialists faulted Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's choice of mainly veterans to fill his new 20-member cabinet, saying it suggested he was taking the country back to politics as usual.

There were also charges of nepotism as three ministers are relatives of former prime ministers.

For the first time in three years, cabinet members came only from Mr. Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which was thrown out of power in 1993 after corruption scandals.

It came back to government a year later in a coalition and in Oct. 20 elections became the country's biggest party but fell 12 seats short of a parliamentary majority.

"This cabinet will revive pork barrel politics exercised mainly by the LDP as well as dependence on bureaucrats," the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier) party said.

Political analysts said the cabinet was chosen along the lines of the four most powerful LDP factions, with ministries doled out in proportion to their strength.

"The revival of the so-called 'policy tribes' within the LDP is already noticeable," the Japan Times said. "It suggests that too many senior players in the party still appear to believe that practising politics means dividing the spoils."

Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka, of the LDP's second-largest faction, has five of his supporters in cabinet posts.

But Mr. Mitsuoka had an uncomfortable introduction when he was asked at two separate news conferences about possible illegal political donations. He strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

The questions were linked to the arrest Thursday of a Japanese oil products wholesaler on suspicion of tax evasion.

Junichi Izumi, 60, owner of the Osaka-based oil wholesaler company Izumi Sekiyu Shokai, was arrested on suspicion of evading 330 million Yen (\$3 million) in tax between 1992 and 1994 by failing to report income totalling some 660 million Yen (\$6 million).

"Izumi reportedly had close connections with politicians, made political donations and

purchased tickets for politicians' fund-raising parties," Kyodo news agency reported.

Asked if he had any links to the trader, Mr. Mitsuoka said he had met him at parties and other functions two or three times.

He did not know if his campaign organisation received donations from Izumi, but said he would look into the issue.

"I believe I have not done anything illegal," he said.

Mr. Mondale's announcement that he would step down by the end of the year ended a tenure in which he played a key role in settling trade feuds and repairing security ties.

Among the most bitter feuds was one over car trade that took the two nations to the brink of a trade war in 1995.

Mr. Mondale helped to repair security ties frayed by the end of the cold war and jolted by resentment at the U.S. military presence on Japan's southern island of Okinawa after the 1995 rape of a schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen there.

"Mr. Mondale was viewed as a skilful statesman, and widely respected," said John Neuffer, a political analyst at Mitsui Marine Research Institute. "The Japanese were happy that he was here during these rather tense times," he said.

Mr. Mondale's tenure was marked by a number of key events, including the signing of the Japan-U.S. Security Agreement in 1996, which renewed the alliance between the two nations.

He also played a key role in the settlement of the trade war between the two nations, which had lasted for several years.

Mr. Mondale's departure marks the end of a long and successful career in public service.

He will be remembered for his leadership in the fight against the AIDS epidemic and his efforts to improve relations between the United States and Japan.

Mr. Mondale's legacy will live on through the many lives he has touched and the many challenges he has overcome.

He will be missed, but his contributions to the world will never be forgotten.

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100

Taliban intensify prayer roundups

KABUL (AFP) — Taliban fighters armed with machine guns and lengths of hose-pipe on Friday appeared to intensify their weekly drive to force Kabul residents into the city's main mosque, witnesses said.

The stepped up effort came exactly six weeks after the Islamic warriors burst into the city, toppling the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and imposing strict Islamic rule here.

"For some reason they seem to have got serious again this week about making people offer prayers in mosque," student Sayed Agha said.

"There was no violence, but there was certainly more pressure than in the past few weeks, although it was not as strong as on the first Friday after the Taliban arrived here," he added.

About 20 fighters patrolled the streets near the battered capital's main Pul-e-Khista mosque ahead of Friday prayers in the domed 18th century building, prodding and sometimes dragging passers-by inside. One fighter dragged an old man into the mosque by his beard after he resisted the order to offer prayers, while a handcuffed man who was being pushed through the streets

on a cart was also ordered inside.

Other pedestrians and motorists were herded into the building as they passed or were told to leave their vehicles or market stalls to attend the prayers session.

The scene contrasted with that of the previous four weeks when the Taliban relaxed the armed patrols, while most Kabulis stayed at home during the midday prayer period to avoid being forced to pray.

The United Nations special investigator on violence against women expressed concern on Friday over reports of the Taliban movement abusing and even attacking Afghan girls and women.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan lawyer, urgently appealed to Mullah Mohammad Omar, leader of the supreme council of the Taliban movement, to "reinstate respect for human rights of women" by lifting its ban on women's participation in society.

The Taliban, who seized Kabul on Sept. 27, demand that their strict version of Islamic law be imposed throughout the country. The U.N. Security Council has denounced what it called discrimination against girls and women, who have been forbidden to work or attend schools and universities.



Taliban militiamen use a whip to force locals to attend Friday prayers at the Pole-e-Khesht mosque in central Kabul (Reuters photo)

Kabariti pledges to support refugee camp services

HUSN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told residents of Azmi Mufti Palestinian refugee camp near Husn that those Palestinians living in Jordan and looking forward to returning to their homeland can continue to contribute to the country's development.

While on a visit to the camp in northern Jordan

Thursday, Mr. Kabariti said that all Jordanians, regardless of their origin, live in equality and freedom, are the foundation of strong national unity under the Hashemite umbrella and will continue to build the nation together.

He stressed that this unity is sacred, and as such, the government would not hesitate to deal firmly with

those who attempt to tamper with it or exploit it for any purpose.

The prime minister told public rally during his inspection visit that Jordan will remain the homeland of free people and a haven of democracy, respect for human rights and pluralism and will continue to seek justice and equality for all its people.

In replying to local residents' requests, Mr. Kabariti promised that the government will take a serious look into the demands and will address problems connected with roads, electricity and sewerage services in the camp.

He also said the government plans to construct a boys' secondary school soon.

Cigarettes, heavy arms seized from smugglers

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an hour-long chase across the Jordanian desert, involving both squad cars and helicopters, police captured four alleged smugglers and seized 123 cartons of foreign cigarettes, an unspecified number of automatic weapons and rocket launchers.

Badia and border police forces reported the aborted smuggling operation near the Saudi and Iraqi borders Thursday evening and said that during the pursuit suspects and police engaged in an exchange of gunfire in which two policemen were slightly wounded.

Murders reported
Meanwhile two murders occurred Thursday in the Jabal Qusour and Wadi Haddadeh districts of

Jordan is ready to help build economy of Palestinians. Abul Ragheb says in Ramallah

(Continued from page 12)

House, quarters in Arab East Jerusalem, and met with Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

He told reporters after the meeting that Jordanian-Palestinian relations were distinguished and that bilateral coordination was strong. "His Majesty King Hussein's visit (last month) to Jericho was the first ever visit by an Arab leader and was a sign of Jordan's support for the Palestinians' right for self-determination," said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

In reply to a question on this week's Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the conference would be a suitable opportunity for Arab businessmen to openly discuss investments in the Middle East. But, he said, "the conference will not meet with great success because its success depends on the peace process, which is still in its infancy."

The Palestinian minister of

religious affairs said Thursday differences between Jordan and Palestinians for control of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem has been resolved.

Hassan Tabboub said Jordan will retain control of Jerusalem's holy sites pending the outcome of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the final status of the city.

The Palestinians will be responsible for sites outside Jerusalem's municipal boundaries, Mr. Tabboub said the agreement was reached during a meeting in Jordan of officials of the Jordanian and Palestinian Islamic trusts.

The properties involved include schools, cultural centres, housing and mosques — including Jerusalem's Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

The agreement reached puts the Palestinians in control of 52 mosques in the Jerusalem area. The Palestinians will also control a number of schools, colleges and other properties.

Clinton poised to make major cabinet changes

(Continued from page 1) pher said during brief remarks, his voice at times quivering with emotion. "I am convinced that especially in this time of change in the world, the American people expect our nation to maintain its strong and principled global leadership," he said.

Topping the list of contenders for the top diplomat's job was former senator George Mitchell, who was earlier this

year appointed as peace envoy for Northern Ireland and served as Mr. Clinton's debate coach during the campaign. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright was also seen as a candidate for the post, as were Bosnia peacemaker Richard Holbrooke, Colin Powell, the former joint chiefs-of-staff chairman and former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn.

Seminar analyses Arab-Israel relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-day seminar was held yesterday at the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies to analyse and evaluate Arab-Israeli relations in view of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

The closed seminar, was attended by leading intellectual and research figures from Arab countries contiguous to Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

According to Mustapha Hamameh, director of the centre, the participants discussed different models of Arab relations with Israel, from those of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, which have signed peace treaties and agreements with Israel, to the others like Syria and Lebanon which have not gone beyond the stage of negotiations with the Israelis.

Different alternatives to dealing with Israel were also discussed. Dr. Hamameh said, but not to just improve the Arab bargaining position. The participants reviewed ways and means of how the Arab World might emerge stronger, generally speaking, he said.

Those who attended the

seminar came with specific experiences and ideas, as many of them served and continue to serve in official capacities and dealt with Israel as such.

Dr. Hamameh said, listing an examples Egyptian presidential advisor Osama Baz, former Jordanian Prime Minister Taher Masri and Information Minister Marwan Muasher. Other attendees were Dr. Aziz Shukri, a former dean of Damascus University's law college and currently director of its strategic studies centre; Ragheed Al Sulh, a prominent Lebanese thinker; Khalil Shigaji and Riad Malki from Palestine. The meetings of the seminar were chaired by Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, president of University of Jordan and attended in the Jordanian side by former Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine and Abdul Ilah Khatib.

A consensus emerged among the participants that although Israel has not basically changed its attitudes towards the Arabs, the Palestinians were now stronger in dealing with Israel, even with the right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu being at the helm, Dr. Hamameh said.

Israel to return West Bank land of Sharif Zaid Hussein

AMMAN (AP) — A member of the Royal Hashemite family said Thursday that Israel has agreed to return property confiscated from his father in the West Bank more than 30 years ago.

Sharif Zaid Nasser, son of former Prime Minister Sharif Hussein Ben Nasser, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "told me in a letter that he agreed to return my land to me."

The pledge to acknowledge Sharif Zaid's claim to the 216 acres comes as many Arab families still do not know the fate of properties they left behind when they fled with the creation of Israel in 1948 or in the 1967 Middle East war.

The fate of the land is to be discussed in the final phase of Israeli-Palestinian

peace negotiations. The Israeli embassy here said it had no information on the deal.

Sharif Zaid told Petra that the agreement followed negotiations that began during the term of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated last year.

His family's land lies west of the Jordan River and fell under Israel's custody when the Jewish state occupied the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, he said.

"The Middle East peace process had a big role in enabling me to regain my father's land," he was quoted as saying.

He said he would donate the land to the Waqf to "build a mosque on it and name it after my father."

King pardons Shbeilat

(Continued from page 1)

opponent of the peace treaty with Israel, has won for the second time the presidency of the Engineers Association last February while in detention. His release comes at a time when the government seeks to ease the pressure caused by the lifting of subsidy on bread last August which resulted in riots in the south.

Mr. Shbeilat, who served as a deputy from 1984 until 1992, nominated himself for a Balqa seat made vacant by the death of Islamist deputy Ibrahim Shenhed. But his nomination was turned down. It was not known whether Mr. Shbeilat, who in 1992 said he quit politics, intends to nominate himself for the parliamentary elections in 1997. If the slander conviction was not considered political, he cannot, according to the law, run for elections.

U.S. officials reject theory

(Continued from page 1)

air promotion group. About 40 airlines, including American carriers, are linked to the group, Mr. Salinger said.

He said his information is that the navy was testing missiles off the coast of New York on July 17, and had been told planes would be flying higher than 21,000 feet.

The navy was unaware that because another commercial plane was flying above it, flight 800 was flying at 13,000 feet, Mr. Salinger said.

Asked if the document was sufficiently convincing to justify his charges, Mr.

Salinger replied: "The document is something that is highly accurate. It has highly accurate information in it."

The FBI received dozens of calls from people claiming to have seen a missile at the time of the explosion. Rumors that the aircraft was shot down by friendly fire also have abounded on the Internet.

Authorities have said there is no basis for the rumors. They maintain that the evidence collected so far has not proven what caused the explosion, and that three theories still exist: mechanical failure, a bomb or a missile.

Puerto Rico-style status

(Continued from page 1)

"At this point we have not received any reaction from the Israelis about the letter," Mr. Erakat added.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have not restarted talks on finding a solution to Israel's delayed military redeployment from

Hebron since last Thursday and both sides have blamed each other for the impasse.

Meanwhile Israeli security forces were put on alert in Hebron on Friday amid fears of clashes between Jewish extremists and Palestinians during religious observances on Saturday of a Jewish holiday, officials said.

Arab businessmen keep low in secret Israel deals

By Suleiman Al Khablidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Arab businessmen who deal with Israel say the Middle East peace process has done little to lift the stigma of trading with the Jewish state, forcing them into a low profile to avoid being labelled "economic collaborators".

Israel's image as a regional bully, reinforced by the election of right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, means they must conceal ties, seen by the wider business community as either premature or bordering on treason.

"The profit motive is essential but at the right time

and in the right way. Otherwise it is harmful to emotions and shameful, doing this business with people who do not respect us, or their peace treaties," said Wasef Azer, general manager of the private sector Business Bank, which rejects business ties with Israel.

After high hopes generated by Israeli peace deals with Jordan and the Palestinians, businessmen who deal with Israel are lying low.

Renewed Arab-Israeli hatreds have made them freeze plans, or rethink them in what they describe as an inhospitable climate, forbidding open contact

despite official blessing. "You are going to widow my wife and orphan my kids," said a successful Arab industrialist whose product made inroads into the Israeli market, when asked whether he felt comfortable about publicising his Israeli links.

Another, who also declined to be named for fear of damaging his business with neighbouring Arab states, defended his actions. "We don't deal with Israel as collaborators but as business partners," he said.

Two years after Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, with Palestinian-Israeli talks stalled and warnings of renewed Arab-Israeli

bloodshed, most prefer to throw a veil over their secret shuttles to meet Israeli executives in Tel Aviv and occupied Jerusalem hotels to explore business prospects.

The few brave enough to come out in the open cite double standards by hundreds of other businessmen, who they say have lined up agency agreements with Israeli firms in a wide range of consumer products from foodstuffs to raw materials.

"Everyone was getting ahead of the other secretly... We were in the open from the beginning," said Rami Qutub, managing director of International Freight Services and Trading

Company, general sales agent for Israel's domestic carrier Arkia.

"Many have signed agencies with Israeli firms and are sleeping on them until the time comes and there is a 100 per cent perception of peace," he said.

The agency deals have come under the most fire from Jordan's business community. Unlike industries that attempt to sell to Israel but not buy, their dealings are considered the most questionable of business links with Israel.

Israeli practices towards Palestinians has made it more difficult for business associates of Israeli firms to justify their dealings, they

say.

"I want to be perceived as willing to take positive steps of dealing with the Israelis... But it's now impossible because of the stigma associated with it," a leading Arab businessman who has wide contacts with Israeli firms said.

Prospective dealmaking and projects spanning an ostrich farm to hotel resorts are on hold since last May's Israeli election that brought to power a Likud government seen by Arabs as opposed to peace. So until Israel changes its attitude, the wider business community feel the time is not right for business.

Jordan's acting engineers

union head Husni Abu Ghaida, who also has his own consulting engineering office, is firm in his belief that those who deal with Israel should be punished.

"They ought to be ostracised by their colleagues because they are putting their personal interests above those of the Arab nation," Mr. Abu Ghaida, whose union has put up a giant blackboard hung high in its offices to blacklist companies that deal with Israeli firms.

So far the union has not pointed a finger at any Jordanian businessman. Mr. Abu Ghaida says. But the empty blackboard remains a powerful deterrent.

Realism looms large on eve of Mideast economic conference

By Mohammad Hasni

AMMAN (AFP) — The fragile state of the Middle East peace process has injected a dose of realism into this year's regional economic conference which is in marked contrast to the optimism of previous years.

The bold rhetoric and grandiose ideas of the first conference in Casablanca in 1994 and last year's gathering in Amman have given way to uncertainty on the eve of next week's conference in Cairo.

"Front now on the approach is one of realism, far from the enthusiasm of past years," said an Amman-based official on the economic development group to the multilateral peace negotiations.

"This year has not been easy for the consolidation of peace," said the official, adding that there was a "link between the peace process and economic cooperation."

While the Casablanca conference was a first mass contact of business leaders in the region fol-

lowing the 1993 autonomy accords between Israel and the Palestinians, Amman was marked by the presentation of massive schemes and economic projects.

The talk was of major roads linking Egypt and Syria, huge tourism and infrastructure projects, including a canal linking the Red Sea and Dead Sea, and billion-dollar deals.

Projects put forward by Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan alone were valued at \$27 billion, \$6 billion and \$3.5 billion respectively.

"Most of the time these projects were extremely difficult to put into practice," said the economic group official who asked to remain anonymous.

The enthusiasm for these massive projects was fuelled by the prospect of cheap and immediate funding from a regional development bank with \$5 billion of capital.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the formation of such a bank in Amman, but the project has yet to take off because of the reluctance of European countries and Gulf monarchies to stump up the funds in the current political climate.

Arab-Israeli peace talks are currently in a rut, with

REUTERS									
The Business of Information									
Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLF	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.5101	0.6068	1.2729	112.03	1.3306	1520.12	1.8940	5.1074
DE Mark	0.6622	-	0.4015	0.6429	74.17	0.8810	1005.62	1.1220	3.3611
GB Sterling	1.6480	-	-	0.9979	184.62	2.1928	2504.19	2.7917	8.4150
CHF Franc	0.7656	116.54	0.4780	-	87.99	1.0448	1193.01	133.00	4.0078
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3471	0.5411	1.1358	-	1.1872	13.56	151.15	4.5588
CA Dollar	0.7515	1.1432	0.4554	0.9617	1.19	-	1145.17	1.2615	3.6621
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9930	0.3989	0.8837	1358.70	0.8752	-	11.14	3.3578
NL Guilder	0.5903	89.08	0.3578	75.14	66.07	0.7852	898.68	-	3.0124
FR Franc	0.1958	0.2957	0.1187	24.9222	21.92	0.2605	33.17	33.1700	-

Energy									
Oils	Last	Previous							
Brent	22.20	22.10							
W. Texas	22.75	22.70							
Bony	22.20	22.10							
Dubai	20.46	20.44							
UL Gas	218.00	218.00							

Metal Prices									
Metal	Last	Offer							
Gold (oz's)	378.1	376.4							
Silver (oz's)	4.62	4.84							
Platinum (oz's)	382	383							
AL (3 Months)	1463	1484							
CU (3 Months)	0	2015							
Zinc (3 Months)	1068	1089							
Lead (3 Months)	748	748							
NI (3 Months)	7225	7230							

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	1	3	6	9	12	18	24	36	48
USD	5.22	5.35	5.38	5.58	5.50	-	-	-	-
GBP	5.94	6.18	6.43	6.43	6.62	-	-	-	-
JPY	0.37	0.35	0.43	0.43	0.54	-	-	-	-
DEM	3.00	2.91	2.91	3.00	3.20	-	-	-	-
FRF	3.25	3.30	3.38	3.44	3.54	-	-	-	-
CHF	1.80	1.83	1.88	1.61	1.96	-	-	-	-
ITL	7.63	7.44	7.15	7.00	8.81	-	-	-	-

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng.	% Chng.	High	Low	P. Cls.		
New York	DOW JONES	0	0	0	0	0	8206.04		
New York	S&P 500	0	0	0	0	0	727.65		
London	FT-SE 100	3921.7	21.3	0.55	3923.4	3906.4	3900.4		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21201.04	429.93	2.07	21226.77	20770.4	20771.1		
Paris	CAC 40	2216.07	4.28	0.19	2218.58	2213.49	2211.81		
Frankfurt	DAX	2740.14	26.92	0.99	2744.99	2736.09	2713.22		

Energy									
Commodity	Last	Delivery							
Coffee (c/lb)	125.17	Spot							
Cocoa (c/lb)	1347	Spot							
Sugar (c/lb)	309.8	Spot							
Wheat (c/lb)	142	Spot							
Soy (c/lb)	21.79	Spot							
Tea (c/lb)	118	Spot							
Barley (c/lb)	2.08	Spot							
Rice (c/lb)	470	Spot							

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1862	1.172							
DE Mark	0.4704	0.4728							
CHF Franc	0.5595	0.5823							
FR Franc	0.1392	0.1399							
JP Yen	0.8238	0.8329							
NL Guilder	0.4193	0.4214							
IT Lira	0.4673	0.4895							

Experienced Small Business Advisors (Start-ups or Expansions)

An international organization established in Amman, is seeking to add to its bank of professional Small Business Advisor (SBA) consultants. Available for short-term assignments, the SBA will provide expert assistance to entrepreneurs in the areas of: Management, Production, Finance, Sales or Marketing.

Candidates must have a university degree in their field of expertise, be highly creative and resourceful, possess strong interpersonal and communication skills and be computer literate. Ability to work on a team is a must. If you are a qualified professional (male or female) who meets these requirements and is available on call for short-term work, please fax us your resume.

Amman, Jordan: (06) 682779
Deadline: November 19, 1996

PS Include with resume a cover letter stating your field of expertise and sectors of related work experience such as, retail, manufacturing or service.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Insect feeder
- Kermis, for one
- Slightest
- Sandwich cookie
- Actress Turner
- More than adequate
- Gives a false account
- Windshield apparatus
- Clergymen
- Ms. Dewhurst
- Reverence
- Traditional knowledge
- Privileges: abbr.
- Corsican patriot
- Mental attitude
- Flightless bird
- Arduous journey
- Landed property
- Military letters
- Deborah of "Melrose Place"
- Ethereal
- Scamp
- Forceful blow
- Originally called
- U.S. president
- Alleviated
- Greens group: abbr.
- Pout
- Appendage
- Begin again
- Shunned
- Certain map
- Well-known
- Mountain ridge
- Declare
- Blackthorn
- Persians
- Part of the US
- Hardy heroine

by Viviani O. Collins

7 Single thing

8 Braggart

9 Unruly

10 Jannings of old films

11 Belongs (to)

12 Frozen rain

13 Marine birds

14 Namely

15 Commands

16 Pleasant

17 Lima's country

18 Cupid

19 Beat decisively

20 Dress size: abbr.

21 Letters on a schedule

22 Hostility

23 Word with frog or house

24 Oiled

25 Greek letter

26 Fleming or Hunter

27 Residents

28 Wading bird

29 Prohibit

30 Surrounded by

31 King of Troy

32 Category

33 Turn away

34 Head of France

35 Grows older

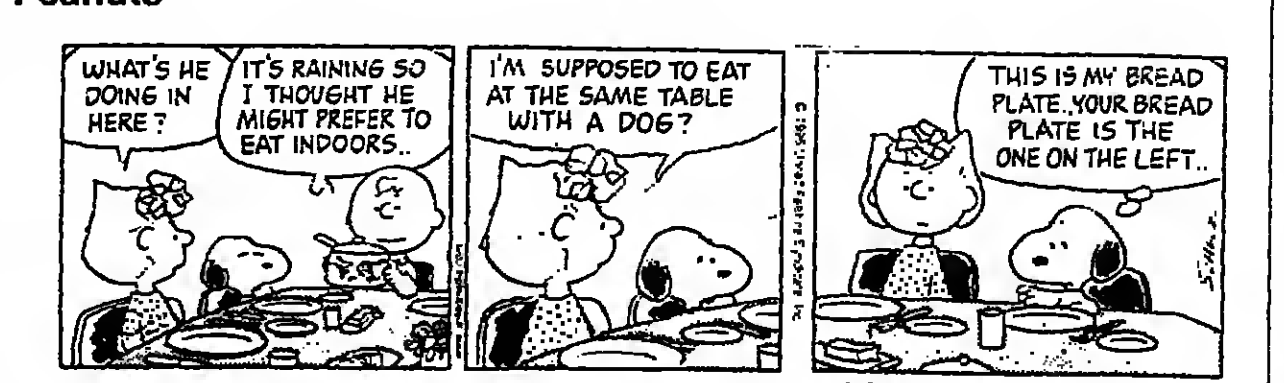
36 Valley

37 God of love

38 Uses henna

39 Holiday time

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You know just how to handle personal matters and career activities today and make quick headway. State your ambitions to others later this evening and see if fellow associates and be of assistance on some new project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Sit in the privacy of your study today and analyse your secret aims and plan how to gain them. Plan activities for the days ahead and contact those knowledgeable persons who can give you some creative suggestions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Know what your most personal wishes are today and how best to bring them to fruition and then get your time scheduled wisely so that you can take advantage of any advice which is given by fellow associates.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your career activities today and get a new insight so you can make them operate more successfully. Later this evening you can meet with fellow associates who can be quite helpful concerning some important project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Find the right methods of operation today so that you can gain your goals more readily and then be very active in the outside world. This evening can be spent with close friends in those activities which everyone will enjoy.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study into new systems today so that your business life can become more successful. One whose ideas are different from yours can be helpful later this evening concerning some new task which is given at this time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A clever person has a fine idea today for increasing production so follow it. Handle part of your career activities and you will gain the respect and admiration of those in authority who can be beneficial.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to handle routines more intelligently today so that you can greater benefit from them. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with close friends and your loved ones and have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are wide awake today to new pleasures you can easily enjoy them at this time. Be efficient in your career activities and seek the advice of some knowledgeable person who can be of great assistance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Any family affairs which are important should be handled in an original manner today, and they will soon be resolved. Later this evening will be good for completing some important project which gives you success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get an early start today at outside tasks for which you have had little time for lately and they are soon behind you. This evening you should spend some time with your mate and loved ones involved in some special activities.

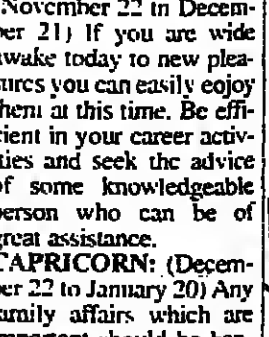
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study property and other assets today and see what can be done to improve or add to them so that they can be more beneficial. Set up a better budget later this evening so that you can have some funds for the lean times.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's

Share prices rose last week as the stock market moved towards normal after a period of volatility. The FTSE 100 rose 1.1 per cent to 8,206.4. The market was buoyed by a report of the Bank of England's decision to raise the base rate to 5.5 per cent. The FTSE 100 rose 1.1 per cent to 8,206.4. The market was buoyed by a report of the Bank of England's decision to raise the base rate to 5.5 per cent.

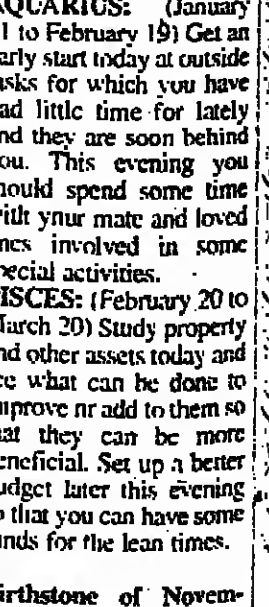
BETTER HALF

By G. GLAS



THAT SCRAMBLE

By Ann Arnold



**By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter**

STOLE

Answer: When he STOLE T

boxed the box office, the actor -
E SHOW

667171 ext. 223

Answer: When he robbed the post office, the letter **STOLE THE SHOW**

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Hectic schedule awaits World Cup hopefuls

PARIS (AFP) — A hectic diet of World Cup action awaits soccer fans across the globe this weekend as their national teams, containing multi-millionaires and gifted amateurs just scraping a living from the "beautiful game", target a place in the 1998 finals in France.

In Europe in particular, the time has come for the favourites to establish their credentials as the qualifying campaign heats up.

England should preserve their 100 percent record in their third match as they play their 100th world cup tie Saturday against Georgia in Tbilisi.

Glenn Hoddle's squad has been hit by a late spate of injuries with both Paul Merson of Arsenal and Dominic Matteo of Liverpool joining Alan Shearer on the casualty list, leaving just 21 players available for the group two clash.

Shearer, who has netted three of England's five goals in the competition so far, is recovering from a groin operation, meaning Newcastle United clubmate Les Ferdinand could get the nod. Liverpool starlet Robbie Fowler stands by for a chance to stake his claim.

In the same group, three-times world champions Italy have a week off as Poland host Moldova Sunday.

Perennial favourites Germany, three-times winners and three-times runners-up, meanwhile take on Northern Ireland in a group nine game on Saturday after opening with a 5-1 away thrashing of Armenia.

Coach Berti Vogts' chief problem is the absence of German footballer of the year Matthias Sammer, who is out of action with torn ligaments. A knee injury rules out Werder Bremen's dynamic midfielder Dieter Eilts.

Vogts had hoped to have Karlsruhe's south African-born Sean Dundee available, but officials failed to clear his naturalisation papers in time.

Euro 96 hero Oliver Bierhoff will thus shoulder attacking responsibilities alongside Jurgen Klinsmann. Stuttgart's Fredi Bohie and Leverkusen's Ulf Kirsten.

In the same group, Portugal will seek revenge

over Ukraine with coach Artur Jorge hoping for an inspired performance from West Ham midfielder star Hugo Porfirio, who has settled well in the English Premiership.

In group four, Scotland face Sweden a month on from the shortest match in history — just three seconds — after hosts Estonia failed to show up in Tallinn.

FIFA Thursday ruled the match should be replayed by next March, meaning captain Gary McAllister still has a one-game suspension to serve.

Hibernian's Jim Leighton should win his 75th cap in place of Andy Gorman, who has a hip injury.

The Swedes may include their "golden ball" footballer-of-the-year Roland Nilsson. The 33-year-old Helsingborg star, who has won 86 caps, plans to bow out in the finals in France.

Holland, rebuilding under Guus Hiddink, welcome back winger Marc Overmars, who returns against Wales in Saturday's Group Seven clash at Eindhoven after a year out injured.

Apart from Overmars, Michael Reiziger also comes back into the Dutch side as does Celtic striker Pierre Van Hooydonk, now recovered from a bruised calf.

In Group Eight, Ireland, like England, are seeking their third win in three against Iceland, who are set to be without captain Gudni Bergsson. Roy Keane returns for the Irish.

Romania, well-placed after wins over Lithuania and Iceland, resume their campaign next month against Macedonia, who play no-hopers Liechtenstein on Saturday.

Elsewhere in Europe, Russia, Group Five leaders on goal difference from Israel, face Luxembourg on Saturday while Israel meet Cyprus in Nicosia. 1994 semi-finalists Bulgaria do not play.

Group Six, where Yugoslavia lead the way, sees no matches until February, save for Wednesday's encounter between Spain and Slovakia.

Latin America sees just three weekend matches as Bolivia host runaway group leaders Colombia at high altitude in La Paz, while Paraguay face

Ecuador and Peru meet Venezuela. Chile play Uruguay on Tuesday.

Four of the nine-strong group qualify with Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador and Paraguay tipped to make it.

Colombia have surged into pole position thanks to six goals in five games from erratic Newcastle United star Tino Asprilla, but his colleagues will find 90 minutes at 3,600 metres a tall order.

In the CONCACAF (Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Football) group one, the USA face Trinidad et Tobago having opened with a 2-0 success against Guatemala.

In the second group in the region, El Salvador face Panama, while in the third group, Jamaica play St. Vincent and Grenadines.

While the big guns chase what they see as their rightful place in the 32-team finals, nowhere is the romance of the tournament better encapsulated than in the Polynesian group, where the unknowns can, albeit briefly, literally take their place in the sun.

Here, World Cup dreamland physically materialises in the form of spicy encounters such as Western Samoa against the Cook Islands, who face off on Monday.

While neither team will attend the French jamboree in two years time as anything other than spectators, it is these clashes which underline the global reach of the world's most popular sport.

A European side's route to the finals is clear cut, requiring the winning of one's respective group or second place followed by one knockout against another runner-up. But in Polynesia, life is not quite so simple.

The winner of the Tonga-based three-team group will face the Solomon Islands for a place in the second round, where Oceania big guns such as Australia enter the fray.

The odyssey then continues via a mini-league and two lots of home-and-away playoffs. Only then can Oceania's best book their tickets to France.

But whatever the continent, the route to World Cup glory is tortuously long and hard.



Denver Nuggets' forward Antonio McDyess (11) fouls Houston Rockets' centre Hakeem Olajuwon as Olajuwon drives the lane in the first quarter in Denver. Houston defeated Denver 110-108 (Reuters photo)

Olajuwon scores 36 as Rockets beat Nuggets in OT

DENVER (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 12 of his 36 points in overtime as the unbeaten Houston Rockets beat the Denver Nuggets 110-108 Thursday to complete a perfect four-game road trip.

With 3:58 left in overtime, Olajuwon scored Houston's next 10 points on four jumpers and two free throws to give the Rockets a 109-103 lead with less than a minute remaining.

"As for expecting Hakeem to go off like that, we have seen it happen so many times," said Houston's Rudy Tomjanovich. "And it gets to a point where he is breathing pretty hard and looks like he's tired, but he gets into a rhythm, a zone."

"That was just amazing," Hakeem said. "The key, he had the answer," said Nuggets coach Bernie Bekerstaff. "We got some pretty good shots and played a good game. This can boost our confidence."

We just didn't convert down the stretch. I am proud of the guys and their effort, but we have to sustain it."

In an earlier statement, Parma said Chelsea had made an "interesting offer" and that contacts had been made between Hutchinson and officials from the Serie A club.

If the 30-year-old Sardinian does go to Chelsea he will join compatriot Gianluca Vialli and international team mate Roberto Di Matteo at the club managed by Ruud Gullit.

He will also become the third player in a year to leave Parma for England — the others were Colombian Faustino Asprilla to Newcastle and Swede Tomas Brolin to Leeds.

Zola said on Wednesday he had problems with Parma, mainly because coach Carlo Ancelotti insisted on seeing him as a right-sided midfielder whereas he wanted to play as an outright striker.

undergo arthroscopic surgery on his ailing left knee Friday. He is expected to miss three to four weeks.

In San Jose, Patrick Ewing scored 14 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter, including six over the final 90 seconds, as the New York Knicks rallied for a 105-100 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Larry Johnson added 18 points and John Starks had a fiery 17 to spark New York to its fourth straight win over the Warriors.

Joe Smith scored 26 points and Laurrel Sprewell added 18 and nine assists for golden state, which fell to 0-3 at home.

In Portland, Kenny Anderson's awkward 15-foot jumper as time expired in overtime gave the trail Blazers a 95-94 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Trailing 94-93, Anderson took the inbound pass after a timeout, dribbled from the right wing to the foul line under heavy pressure, laked and spun in the air before launching the winning shot.

Denver's starting forward Antonio McDyess and centre Ervin Johnson picked up their sixth fouls in the final 90 seconds of regulation.

"They had a lot of guys getting in foul trouble, so they didn't have many guys to guard me," Olajuwon said. "It's a close game, the concentration level gets higher and I play better."

Charles Barkley added 16 points and 15 rebounds and Clyde Drexler had 13 points for Houston, which improved to 5-0 and is one of three unbeaten teams.

Olajuwon added nine rebounds.

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NBA RESULTS

Orlando	108	New Jersey	95 (In Tokyo)
Houston	110	Denver	108 (OT)
Seattle	103	Phoenix	98
Portland	95	Minnesota	94 (OT)
New York	105	Golden State	100
Atlanta	91	Sacramento	87

Courier out as Kremlin Cup seeds scattered

MOSCOW (R) — Third seed Jim Courier was among three more seeded players dumped out of Moscow's Kremlin Cup on Thursday, going down 6-4 7-6 to Dutch outsider Sjeng Schalken.

Fellow American Malivai Washington, seeded sixth, and eight seed Carlos Moya of Spain were also beaten in the second round to complete the week's wipe-out of all but the top two seeds — Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Goran Ivanisevic.

Kafelnikov, the world number three, survived some early embarrassment to beat Spain's Francisco Clavet 3-6 6-4 6-2 while Croat Ivanisevic dispatched Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek



Jim Courier of USA returns a backhand to Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands during the second round match at the men's Kremlin Cup tennis tournament in Moscow. Schalken beat Courier 6-4 7-6 (Reuters photo)

6-2 6-1.

Washington went down after a hard-fought contest against Andrei Olkhovsky. The big-serving Russian Davis Cup player, ranked

67 places behind the world

No. 123, won a final set tie-break 7-4 to take the match 7-5 6-7 7-6.

In the quarter-finals,

Peter Korda of the Czech

Republic who came back from a set down to dispose of Moya 5-7 7-6 6-3.

Kafelnikov will meet

Zimbabwe's Byron Black.



Boxing promoter Don King (C) holds up the arms of WBA heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (L) and challenger Evander Holyfield following their pre-fight press conference. Tyson will fight Holyfield in Las Vegas tonight

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is in Oakland
Fernandez

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Spanish 500cc motorcycling rider Alex Criville (R) seated next to Spanish Carlos Sainz gets ready to drive a Ford Rally car during an exhibition race at Montmelo race track. Sainz later took a turn on Criville's bike (Reuters photo)

Hingis in Oakland semis; Fernandez out

OAKLAND (R) — Swiss teen Martina Hingis said she was disappointed in her game on Thursday, but she played well enough to advance to the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic.

Third-seeded Hingis beat Linda Wild 6-3, 6-2 in just 58 minutes, setting up a semifinal matchup on Saturday against either second-seeded American Lindsay Davenport or fifth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who play on Friday.

Also advancing Thursday were Russian Elena Likhovtseva, who upset fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-1, and Romanian Irina Spiltea, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Paola Suarez of Argentina.

Hingis had been in complete control in her first match here, against American Anne Miller, but looked more tentative against the hard-hitting Wild. Shots that she normally hits for winners went into the alleys or beyond the baseline.

"It was such a hard match," said Hingis, ranked seventh in the world. "It was not very interesting. I wasn't really happening. I was angry and disappointed that I couldn't make the shots I wanted."

Wild, who upset seventh seed Chanda Rubin on Monday, had very little to say other than her opponent "has everything. She mixes it up pretty well. She's really smart."

Hingis, 16, who became the youngest player to win a Wimbledon title, in doubles with Helena Sukova, has defeated eight top-10 players this year. She could face top seed Monica Seles in Sunday's final for the first time.

Likhovtseva could meet Seles in Saturday's semifinal, if she gets past Spiltea and Seles beats Kim Po on Friday. Likhovtseva had lost to Fernandez 6-2, 6-4 in their only other meeting, at the 1996 Olympics. She appeared in control throughout the match, but said she was not.

"Actually I was very nervous the whole match," Likhovtseva said. "I just tried to concentrate on my game and not make too many mistakes."

Fernandez, who has lost three of her past four matches since the Canadian Open, was hampered by tendinitis in her right wrist.

"I took three or four weeks off with no hitting against Canada," Fernandez said. "I feel like I'm hitting a little better, but I wish I could take some more time off."

Martin more interested in golf than tennis

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Second seed Todd Martin isn't letting the quarter-final win in the Stockholm Open affect his dream of a well-deserved home golfing holiday in Florida later this month.

The American World No. 12 improved his record over compatriot Rickey Reneberg to six wins and three defeats with a 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal victory at the Kungliga as the final regular season event of a long ATP tour season enters the conclusive stage.

But Martin is refusing to worry about whether he will squeeze into the field as an alternate at the eight-man Nov. 19-24 World Championship in Hannover, Germany, based on his performance this week.

"If I don't get to Hannover, I'll be playing golf at home with Chris Woodruff (a second-round loser here to holder Thomas Enqvist)," said Martin. "Either way, I'll be hitting a ball that week. I certainly don't worry about Hannover when I'm on court here."

Martin next faces one of the crop of young Swedes achieving success at the home event.

Magnus Norman, the youngest player in the draw at age 20 and ranked No. 106 on the ATP tour list, earned his second semifinal place of 1996, beating American Vince Spadea 6-3, 7-6 (9-7).

In a bizarre incident, Spadea twice lost his shoe during a point.

The world No. 62 American, coached in a trial run this week by Swede Peter Lundgren, the former mentor of Chile's Marcelo Rios, asked for one of the points to be replayed.

Though the request was denied by the chair umpire, Spadea thought he was within his rights under a little-known rule which allows a replay if a player's hat flies off at mid-point.

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- Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 7 ♠ 10 7 6 3 ♠ A K 9 8 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
- What action do you take?
- Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 8 ♠ 7 ♠ 6 3 ♠ A K Q 7 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
- What do you bid now?
- Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 8 ♠ 7 ♠ 6 3 ♠ A K 9 8 5 2
- Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q. 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 8 ♠ 7 ♠ 6 3 ♠ A K 9 8 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
- What action do you take?
- Look for answers on Monday.

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FIFA makes moves to avoid more tragedy

ZURICH (R) — FIFA, world soccer's governing body, counted their dead on Thursday and announced steps to prevent the further loss of lives at matches.

Having resolved the tricky issues surrounding co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup by Japan and South Korea on Wednesday, FIFA's World Cup organizing committee spent the second day of meetings wrestling with stadium security after recent incidents claimed more than 90 lives.

Until further notice, Guatemala's Flores Mateo Stadium where 84 people were killed in a stampede prior to the start of a World Cup qualifier against Costa Rica last month, will not be used for matches.

Guatemala's two remaining world cup home games — against Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago — will be held in neighbouring countries.

A report from the FIFA disciplinary committee confirmed that all necessary security measures had been taken at the match between Zambia and Sudan on June 16 that claimed nine lives.

In an effort to avoid a similar tragedy, the World Cup qualifying match between Liberia and Tunisia on November 10 has been moved to Accra, Ghana because of the volatile political situation in Liberia.

FIFA also continued to push for a fence-free 1998 World Cup in France.

The decision on having all fences removed from French

stadiums will hinge on a report from a government study group due out next January.

"All French football is in favour of removing fences forever," said FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, an outspoken advocate for the abolition of fences in stadiums. "But it will take time."

"It is a French government decree that clubs put up fences so first the decree must be changed."

The 1998 World Cup organising committee also confirmed that the final draw will be staged in the newly renovated stadium in Marseille on December 4 following a special match.

The two squads will be made up of one player each from countries qualified for the 1998 World Cup, 15 from Europe and 17 from the rest of the world.

But FIFA made no decision about reversing their stand that World Cup matches could be staged in the Kosovo Stadium in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Bosnia, who beat Italy 2-1 in the stadium in a friendly on Wednesday, will still have to play their World Cup matches in a neutral country.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said: "The question of Bosnia was raised by the committee this morning, but it merely noted that Bosnia played its World Cup match in Bologna last month and no decision was taken to allow Bosnia to play home matches in Sarajevo."

Barcelona face Atletico without key players

BARCELONA (R) — Spanish pundits who only a few days ago saw Barcelona as firm favourites to take this weekend's top league clash are now backing champions Atletico Madrid.

The reason couldn't be more simple — Barcelona striker Ronaldo is injured.

The absence of Ronaldo with a leg muscle problem has radically changed Atletico's plans after a week when defender Juan Lopez became the centre of attention when he was given the unenviable job of marking the brilliant young Brazilian.

And while Atletico's set-piece King Milinko panic looks almost certain to play, Barcelona coach Bobby Robson is struggling to put together a side.

Defender Miguel Angel Nadal is suspended, while World Cup duty for Portugal has already deprived Robson of the only two players to hold a candle to Ronaldo this season, keep-

er vitor baia and winger Luis Figo.

Juan Pizzi will definitely take Ronaldo's place, but Robson is also without injured Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, and might have to call upon brothers Roger and Oscar Garcia, who have hardly played this season.

Veteran club captain Jose Maria Bakero, who is set to join Mexico's Veracruz in the next few weeks, may even be given the opportunity to round off his career at Barcelona in style.

Robert Prosinecki, who had been seen as a possible starter in midfield, will miss the game because of a late call up for Croatia's game against Greece.

Barcelona's problems have dramatically increased Atletico's chance of turning round a poor start to the season.

Radomir Antic's side have won their last three games and moved up to sixth, but are still 10 points behind the leaders.

The change in fortune has coincided with the reappearance of influential playmaker Jose Luis Caminero.

Few Atletico fans will forget the role Caminero played in three victories over Barcelona that sealed their side's first-ever double last season.

Atletico completely outclassed Barcelona to take both league games 3-1, while the 1-0 defeat in the cup final heralded the end of Johan Cruyff's eight years at the Camp Nou.

Coach Radomir Antic thinks that his side are now playing at the same level as last year, but is worried that Barcelona's problems may force Robson to use excessively negative tactics.

"What bothers me is how to break a defence of eight men in the Camp Nou," said Antic.

Robson gave short shrift to the Serbian's comments.

"What the coach of a team that is 10 points behind us ought to do is shut up," said Robson.

One man who definitely won't shut up whatever happens is Jesus Gil. The controversial Atletico owner spent much of the week telling reporters of his affection for Ronaldo, and then how iron-man defender Juan Lopez would provide the 'antidote' to the dazzling Brazilian.

Lopez, who had turned up to training on previous days with a Rotweiler dog, now claims that he would have liked to have marked the Brazilian.

But most Atletico fans will be heaving sighs of relief at the absence of Ronaldo.

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Pursue peace or risk losing prosperity, U.S. tells Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior U.S. official warned Israel on Thursday that it risked losing its current prosperity unless it pursued the peace process with its Arab neighbours.

Under-Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat also charged that Israel was imposing a host of bureaucratic regulations that were "choking the economy" of Palestinian self-rule territories under the guise of protecting Israeli security.

Mr. Eizenstat told the Washington Institute, a Middle East think tank, it was "important for Israelis to understand" that the peace process had raised their standard of living, hoisting foreign investment and keeping unemployment low.

"Israel is in effect open to the world, and the world is increasingly open to Israeli products, and it is the peace process which has created the enabling environment to make this possible," he said.

"This should never be taken for granted. It is a very precious flower that has to be nurtured, and it is important therefore that that process continue."

Mr. Eizenstat, who handles international trade issues, was speaking ahead of the third annual Middle East and North Africa economic summit, opening in Cairo on Tuesday, which will aim to pursue regional economic

integration. After some hesitation, Egypt decided to go ahead with the summit despite a widespread feeling in the Arab World that last May's election of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister has put a brake on the peace process.

Negotiations between Israel and Syria have broken down, and Israel and the Palestinians are still arguing over details of a long-agreed plan for Israeli troops to partially withdraw from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Eizenstat said that while any country's security was paramount, "what is important here is to be able to separate what is legitimately a security issue from those issues which are in fact non-security issues, which are the result of protectionism, bureaucratic delays."

He cited several cases of difficulties experienced by Palestinians and Jordanians in doing business in the West Bank and Gaza because of capricious Israeli border controls.

"There are a whole host of restrictions on the flow of goods which need to be looked at in ways that separate out the legitimate security concerns from those devices which are simply choking the economy of the territories," he said.

Noting that the United States was providing Israel with \$100 million worth of security equipment over the next two years, Mr. Eizenstat said Washington hoped "that as that is put in place, that these delays will be mitigated."

He said the "very significant negative effect" on the Palestinian economy of the closure of borders between Israel and the occupied territories had created tensions in the peace process.

While Israeli leaders had stated they intended to tackle the problem, "my message would be it's important to deal with it sooner rather than later," he said.

"There needs to be a sense of urgency about this, and a sense of immediacy to it, and I hope that the Cairo summit will provide that sense of urgency and immediacy. There is an enormous amount of frustration," he added.

Mr. Eizenstat said armed clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in September were "unfortunately not a surprise to anyone who has spent any time in the territories and seen the economic straits and the lack of a peace dividend that is palpably felt there." The clashes, in which dozens of people were killed on both sides, erupted after Israel opened a tourist tunnel adjacent to Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.



REFUGEES: Some 300 Rwandan refugees from the Inera camp are stopped by a rebel soldier as they walk through downtown Bukavu on their way home. The refugees, who left their camp 30 kilometres north of Bukavu one week ago after heavy fighting, spoke of hunger and sickness and said the rest of the tens of thousands of refugees from their camp were hiding in the Kahuzi National Park (see inside)

Jordan is ready to help build economy of Palestinians, Abul Ragheb says in Ramallah

RAMALLAH (J.T.) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb on Friday reaffirmed Jordan's willingness to help the Palestinians and build Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Mr. Abul Ragheb made the comments in a speech to an audience of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen which was held on the sidelines of a Jordanian trade fair held in Ramallah.

"Jordan will be the gate for the Palestinian economy. We should enhance cooperation among our private sectors, particularly among our

chambers of trade and industry as well as associations of businessmen in order to activate bilateral agreements," said the minister.

He added that the Jordanian trade fair familiarised the Palestinian businessmen with Jordanian products.

Such fairs are a great opportunity for Jordan to get close to Palestine in all aspects, especially politically and economically, said the minister.

"Our peoples are twins and our relationship must be strengthened on all fronts,"

Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

President of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Issa Murad told the gathering: "The Jordanian trade fair in the Palestinian territories with the participation of 106 Jordanian companies displaying electronic appliances, furniture, textiles, foodstuff and construction materials is aimed at expanding commercial and economic ties between Jordan and Palestine."

Mr. Murad called for exerted efforts on the two sides to increase joint investments in order to provide job opportunities and

to reconstruct the infrastructure in the Palestinian territories.

He also called for removing all obstacles obstructing trade and urged Jordanian businessmen to cooperate with their Palestinian counterparts.

He said that Jordan's exports to Palestine last year totalled \$40 million with an additional \$23 million in goods informally brought by visitors from the Palestinian territories.

On Thursday, Mr. Abul Ragheb visited the Orient

(Continued on page 7)

Bhutto is working on drive to retake power

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto prepared Friday to launch a two-pronged campaign to recapture power, fighting her dismissal in court and taking her case to the streets.

Ms. Bhutto said she expected to file a legal challenge next week to President Farooq Leghari's order toppling her government.

She promised to tour the country to whip up support for her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), now that the four-day-old caretaker government had lifted curbs on her movements.

"I am going to fight back," Ms. Bhutto told Reuters television in an interview late Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto was expected to meet advisers Friday to discuss the court challenge to Mr. Leghari's trenchant order, which she called illegal and unconstitutional.

"The lawyers are working on it and I hope to file the challenge next week early next week," she said.

Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto Tuesday with a pre-dawn proclamation that accused her government of rampant corruption and failure to stop rampant extra-judicial killings.

It was the fourth time in 11 years that presidents have used their authority to oust an elected government.

He then had the government in Pakistan's most industrialised province, Sindh, sacked and named an estranged uncle of Bhutto as caretaker chief minister.

Ms. Bhutto took solace from the supreme court's decision in 1993 to overturn a presidential order sacking former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, leader of the PPP's main rival, the Pakistan Muslim League.

That order contained accusations which were similar to Mr. Leghari's.

"I expect the supreme court to uphold the decision it gave in 1993 and restore the assembly," Ms.

Bhutto said.

Ms. Bhutto, who was confined to her official residence by security forces for nearly 36 hours this week before being released, said she intended to take her fight to the streets.

"I'll of course need to be touring the country a lot and I'll be doing that," she said, cautioning that there would be "agitation" if elections set for Feb. 3 were not fair.

Ms. Bhutto's dismissal poisoned already strained relations with Mr. Leghari, who had twice served in her cabinet and been hand-picked by the ousted prime minister. "Ultimately, he (Leghari) took this step because he wanted power," Ms. Bhutto said.

"The former comrades-in-arms of the PPP are preparing for a fierce battle against each other," the daily news said.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, remained in custody in an official residence near Islamabad.

Zardari, investment minister in Ms. Bhutto's cabinet, was detained without charge Tuesday in Lahore and transferred to the rest-house, where Ms. Bhutto was allowed to visit him in the early hours of Thursday. Ms. Bhutto said she was pleased to see he had not been tortured.

Ms. Bhutto said she believed that her detained husband would face fabricated charges in connection with the killing of her estranged brother, Murtaza, in September.

"I think they are holding him because they are trying to persuade my sister-in-law (Murtaza's widow Ghinwa) to file a case against him," she declared.

Ms. Bhutto said Zardari was being held by the military's inter-services intelligence, but had been placed in police custody Thursday under an order citing the maintenance of peace.

Zardari is at the centre of corruption allegations swirling around Ms. Bhutto's former government, but she said he had done nothing wrong.

SLA expels family of 8

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Friday expelled a Muslim family of eight from the occupied border zone, police said.

Amnesty International, meanwhile, appealed for the release of Dr. George Halim Nakk whom the SLA is believed to have imprisoned at their Khiam jail in Israel's so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The SLA escorted the family of Ali Khalil Nasrallah together with his wife and six children from their home in Hula village to a crossing between the zone and the rest of South Lebanon, police said.

The Syrian-backed Shiite Muslim Amal movement found temporary lodgings for the Nasrallah family in a village outside the border zone.

The parents told police they had been expelled because one of their sons refused to enrol in the SLA, a force of 3,000 men which is often accused of press-gang young men.

Beirut already this week protested to an international group monitoring a ceasefire accord between Israel and its main foe in South Lebanon, the Iran-backed Hizbollah, over the expulsion of two other families from the zone.

France has been tasked with trying to secure their return through diplomatic contacts with Israel.

APC, Haifa Chemicals study \$60m joint project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) and an Israeli firm, Haifa Chemicals, are discussing a \$60 million joint venture to produce raw materials for the Israeli company, one of the largest in the Jewish state, industry sources said Friday.

"Preliminary talks have started but it cannot be said that they have reached the stage of actual negotiations," said one source.

"However, there seems to be enough strong interest on both sides that could lead to the eventual realisation of the project."

A spokesman for Haifa Chemicals, one of the leading producers of fertiliser potassium nitrate, was quoted as saying on Thursday by Reuters that the joint venture would be for the setting up of a plant to produce raw materials for the Israeli firm's plants in Haifa on the Mediterranean coast and at Mishor Toteim in the Naqurah desert.

The sources could not provide more details of the discussions. The APC has an exclusive concession to extract minerals from the Dead Sea, which contain at least 35 distinct elements. It was not immediately known which specific elements were under discussion between Haifa Chemicals and the APC.

The APC and Israel's Dead Sea Works have already launched a \$90 mil-

lion joint venture to produce bromine on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. Israel is providing the technical know-how and Jordan is offering the infrastructure, raw materials and management. It will be the third largest producer of potash, and the bulk of the output of bromine will be bought by a U.S. firm.

His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who paid a one-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday, visited the plant site and were briefed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. APC Director-General Suleiman Howari presented details of the joint venture as well as the ongoing production activities of the APC.

During the visit to the plant, King Hussein and President Weizman also opened a cross-border road to allow employees to move freely between the APC and Israel's Dead Sea Works, reports in the Israeli press said.

The opening of the road came as a spontaneous decision, said a report in the Jerusalem Post.

"When it was pointed out that although 10 kilometres separate the sites, the workers have to drive almost to Aqaba to cross the border, both (King) Hussein and (President) Weizman spontaneously suggested that the old patrol road linking the two sites be reopened," the Post reported.

Ensour and Nasser Lawzi meet Iraqi vice-president

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two members of the Council of Ministers have held talks with Iraqi Vice-President Tahar Mohieddin Marouf, who arrived here on Wednesday en route to Italy, and there could be other meetings, official sources said Friday.

Government officials described Mr. Marouf's four-day stay in the Kingdom as a private visit, but it was expected that he would hold high-level talks here before leaving for Rome to attend a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meeting dubbed "Food Summit" this week.

Among those who met with Mr. Marouf over the weekend were Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi, the sources told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Marouf and his entourage are staying at the Guest Palace in what was seen as an indication that he was on an official visit to the Kingdom.

The talks were seen as a follow-up to discussions that an official Jordanian delegation representing the Ports Corporation held with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad last month. During that meeting, the Iraqi government said it would give priority to Aqaba as the main port for its imports under an oil-for-food agreement reached with the United Nations.

Mr. Lawzi was quoted as

saying after the meeting that "we discussed ways of co-operation." He did not elaborate.

The oil-for-food agreement, signed in May by the Iraqi government and the United Nations, is now expected to be implemented early next year after a delay caused by Iraqi troop movements in the north of the country in late August and early September. Those movements were reported to have caused fear for the safety of U.N. inspectors scheduled to be posted in north Iraq and hence the delay.

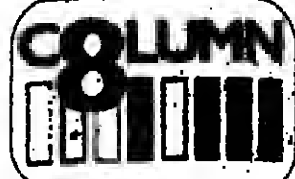
Several private sector delegations have also visited Iraq in recent weeks and have reported positive response to their quest for a good share of the expected Iraqi business under the oil-for-food accord.

Mr. Marouf is the first senior Iraqi official to visit Jordan after a strain in Amman-Baghdad ties caused by Jordan's decision to grant shelter to Hussein Kanter and his brother, both sons-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and their wives in August last year.

Jordan has reduced the volume of a trade protocol signed with Iraq — from around \$400 million in 1995 to \$220 million in 1996 — but is encouraging the private sector to do business with Baghdad.

Jordan reduced the volume of the protocol in agreement with the Baghdad government.

(Continued on page 7)



Hepburn say farewell to N.Y.

OLD SAYBROOK, Connecticut (AP) — Katharine Hepburn has said goodbye to New York City — she's found her golden pond in Connecticut. "She'll never go back to New York. She has a good setup at her family home here," her brother-in-law, Ellsworth Grant, said Wednesday. The 89-year-old actress, the winner of four Academy Awards during a 60-year career, recently put her New York apartment up for rent, and she has been enjoying looking out at the water at her coastal Connecticut retreat. She has no life-threatening diseases but "has the disease of old age," Grant said. "She walks a little, talks a little. Her memory is pretty much gone," he said. "She could live like she is for five years or more or she could die tomorrow." Miss Hepburn starred in "The African Queen," "On Golden Pond" and numerous other films.

'The Lion King' goes Broadway

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of "The Lion King" can soon find their favorite Disney-animated film on stage and not just on a video store shelf. A stage adaptation of "The Lion King" will open on Broadway next fall with director Julie Taymor, known for her inventive, puppet-filled extravaganzas like "Juan Darien" and "The Green Bird." "It will be a very visual show," Ms. Taymor said Wednesday. "I am inventing things for this show that I've never done before." An opening date has not been set — casting was under way. The show, which features over 50 performers, will play for eight weeks in Minneapolis next July before coming to New York. The Broadway show will take the five songs from the film and add new material written by Elton John and Tim Rice, and selections from the recording "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," which the movie inspired.

Low-grade bureaucrats die younger — study

LONDON (R) — Civil servants who never make the grade and do not get perks such as cars are more likely to die soon after retirement than their bosses, British researchers reported. The findings add to a growing body of evidence linking socio-economic status with health. Michael Marmot and Martin Shipley at University College London's Medical School studied more than 18,000 men who worked in the British civil service. They found those in lower grades died sooner after retirement than those who reached higher rank. "Overall, 30 per cent of men in the administrative grade died during the 25-year follow-up compared with 69 per cent of men in the lowest grade," the two wrote in the British medical journal, "Lack of ownership of a car was associated with a 57 per cent higher mortality before retirement and 34 per cent higher mortality after retirement."

Man eaten by lions after drinking bout

MIDDELBURG, South Africa (AFP) — A 35-year-old man was devoured by lions on a game farm near here when he wandered into the bush after a bout of drinking with his friends, police said Friday. Elphas Siwela was visiting friends on a game farm near South Africa's famed Kruger Park Sunday night when he was killed and eaten by a pride of five lions, a police spokesman told the SABA news agency. The lions were later tracked down and shot, and fragments of Siwela's clothing and human bone were found in their digestive tracts.

criticises EU

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkish Minister Tansu Ciller on Saturday said that Turkey's membership in the EU was not moving forward because of human rights issues. After a 21-2 vote in the EU Council of Ministers, Ciller said that Turkey's membership in the EU was not moving forward because of human rights issues. After a 21-2 vote in the EU Council of Ministers, Ciller said that Turkey's membership in the EU was not moving forward because of human rights issues.

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By Ab Special

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament on Saturday sentenced a man to prison after the court found him guilty of sexual harassment. The court issued the decision against a man named Samar Or. The court found him guilty of sexual harassment after a hearing in the District Court. The man was sentenced to prison for a period of six months. The court also ordered him to pay compensation to the victim. The man's lawyer said that his client would appeal the decision.

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